Jordanian detained for possible links to Zambo blast

Story on COL. 2

Erap 'telenovela' loses 'box-office' appeal

By Volt Contreras

IT once rivaled today's popular Latin telenovelas in terms of crowd-drawing power.

But now reduced to virtual "re-runs" and dragging subplots, fewer people are attending the plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

ERAP/A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

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Don't trust just any cop–Ebdane

PNP chief says some kidnappers in uniform

By Christian V. Esguerra

SO, you can no longer tell a policeman from a kidnapper.

Ask Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, and he'll tell you: "Don't trust just any policeman; look instead for somebody whom you can trust."

At the Bulong Pulungan forum at Westin Philippine Plaza in Pasay City, Ebdane yesterday said that kidnappings should be reported directly to the Police Anti-Crime Emergency and Response (Pacer) team based in Camp Crame.

Woe to the family of a kidnap victim who unwittingly reports the case to so-called "kidnappers in uniform," the PNP chief said.

Families of kidnap victims should also be wary of their own relatives. Ebdane said there had been kidnappings in which relatives were the ones involved.

In accordance with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive, Ebdane said the PNP was cracking down on police officers and military men believed to be involved not only in kidnappings but also in other criminal activities, like robbery, car theft, drug trafficking and extortion.

The rising incidence of crime involving men in uniform has been cited as a major reason for-

DON'T/A17

PROMISE, huh? President Macapagal inducts officers of the Liberal Party who vow to support her in 2004 and "beyond." From left are LP president Rep. Florencio Abad; Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, executive vice president; Sen. Francis Pangilinan and Eastern Samar Gov. Raul Daza. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA moves to fortify political coalition

By Dona Pazzibugan and Carlito Pablo

ALTHOUGH President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday enjoined her political allies to fight the "politics of personality and patronage," it's starting to look a lot like 'tis the season for it.

In inducting the Liberal Party's national officials at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Malate, Manila, Ms Macapagal appeared to be seeking and consolidating the party's support. She cited ties that bind her to the LP, it being the party of her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

The elder Macapagal served as LP president and was its standard bearer when elected to the presidency.

She got as much as she gave. Earlier, she had been named the party's honorary chair. She was also reassured by LP officials led by its president, Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad, of their support should she run in the 2004 presidential elections.

Last Saturday in a major reorganization meeting held in Malacañang, President Macapagal reinforced her once and future party, the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

She named her "balae," Herman Montenegro, father-in-law of her son Mikey Arroyo, treasurer of the party concurrent with his present position as the party's chief fund raiser.

Montenegro replaced former banker Edgardo Espiritu, who over the weekend became the new treasurer of the ruling Lakas-NUCD of which Ms Maca-

GMA/A17

Sex case against Gokongwei brother dismissed

By Agnes E. Donato

THE COMPLAINANT broke into tears on learning yesterday that the sexual harassment case she had filed against the brother of business tycoon John Gokongwei and another executive of the Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. (Digitel) had been junked.

The case was dismissed almost a month ago but former Digitel marketing and communications executive Mariquit Soriano learned about it only yesterday.

She herself has yet to receive a copy of Quezon City Assistant Prosecutor Dindo Venturanza's resolution.

A check with the records division of the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office showed that the case filed by Soriano last June against Digitel executives Johnson Robert Go and Eric Severino had been dismissed on Sept.12.

Soriano found out only about the dismissal when, along with some friends and members of the militant women's group Gabriela, she went to the Quezon City Hall of Justice yesterday noon to press Venturanza to speed up the resolution of the case.

"You just have to wait," Venturanza had told Soriano when she had asked him in an earlier meeting why the resolution yet had to be released.

Soriano had accused Go, Digitel senior exeuctive vice president and chief operating officer, and Severino, formerly the com-

SEX/A18

General says gov't losing media war

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Government forces are winning the war against communist rebels, but are losing in the media.

The lament came from Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, chief of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command (Solcom), which is based in Camp Nakar here.

He decried what he described as the "imbalance in the projection of forces" of the government and the communist New People's Army in the media.

He cited the accomplishments of his command, which according to him, were not given ample space in the newspapers. "From January to September this year, out of the total 84 engagements

GENERAL/A18

Tourists in Basilan? Why not?

By Philip Tubeza

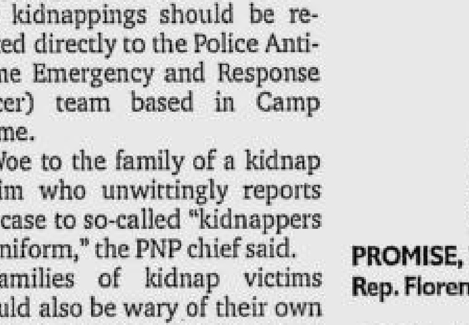
BASILAN, a world-class tourist destination with Abu Sayyaf bandits as waiters, bartenders, lifeguards and diving instructors? Well, why not?

Such, in fact, is the vision of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

Gordon told reporters in a recent press conference that he was fully supporting a plan of the Alano family in Basilan to set up a hotel and beach resort complex in the town of Malamawi, which is renowned for its white sand and blue tropical waters.

He said such a tourism project

TOURISTS/A17



TUNGKOL SA KWAN...
ALAM KO... YUNG PAG ANO!

Know how to dance the cucumber samba?

By Armand N. Nocum

ARE you familiar with the cucumber samba, horizontal folk dance and a roll in the hay?

If you're not, well . . . these are eu-

KNOW/A18

Jordanian held for possible links to Zamboanga bombing

By Armand N. Nocum

A JORDANIAN held for immigration violations is being investigated for possible links to last week's bomb attack in Zamboanga City in which a US soldier and two Filipinos were killed, officials yesterday said.

Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, head of the military's Southern Command, yesterday said that four other foreigners were also being monitored for possible links to the Abu Sayyaf bandit group, which the military has blamed for the Oct. 2 attack at an open-air market near an arms depot and videoke bar in Barangay Malagutay.

Mohammad Amin al Ghaffari, 36, is being held for staying in the Philippines longer than permitted and for holding irregular travel documents, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said.

Al Ghaffari, a director of the Islamic Wisdom Worldwide Mission, a nongovernment organization, surrendered Monday night.

"We took him into custody for violating our immigration laws. As for his alleged terrorist links, I'm leaving that to our military and police authorities to investigate," Domingo said in a statement.

But military sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the arrested suspect was believed to be a Palestinian and a member of the Islamic radical group Hamas.

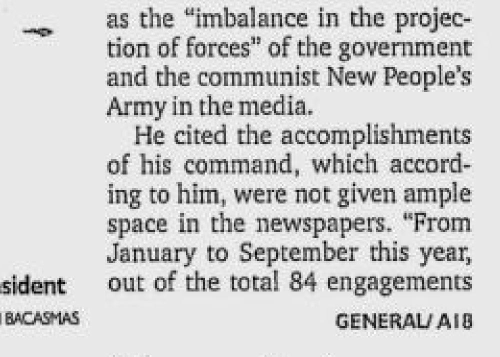
The sources said the man was seen in Zamboanga City a few weeks before the bombing incident, which also left more than 20 others wounded, including another American soldier.

Al Ghaffari, a longtime resident of this country, is married to a Filipino. The couple has six children, according to the immigration bureau.

Military intelligence units have been looking for him since the bomb blast, sources said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Benjamin Defensor said authorities were trying to verify if al Ghaffari had links with the Abu Sayyaf bandits, a small group of self-proclaimed Islam-

JORDANIAN/A17



QUESTIONS swirl about Dr. Mohammad Amin al Ghaffari. ERIK ARAZAS

WEATHER FORECAST

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SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/09/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Second FRONTPAGE

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Beginning Oct. 16, our fax numbers at the editorial will be used exclusively by the editorial staff in the field.

Banking czar tapped to build gov't housing

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has tapped banker Deogracias Vistan to be the administration's point man in a housing program for government employees that will make use of idle government-owned real estate.

Vistan, who formerly headed the state-owned Land Bank of the Philippines, will be making a presentation to President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Friday.

Vistan described the project in a phone interview as a pump-priming measure that would involve the sale and development of government lands to build housing for state employees.

But while he has agreed to help in the program, it did not mean that he was rejoining government, he said.

"There's nothing in writing that will lead to an appointment," Vistan said.

"I am just advising, this is not a full-time activity for me," he said.

Vistan declined to provide details about what he will do until after he presents his plan to the President.

He described his role as acting as a bridge to large industrial and business groups—including the ethnic Chinese tycoons and the Ayala group—that will undertake the development of the state properties, and the banks that will put together a 20-year mortgage plan for the government employees.

VISTAN: Government housing czar

The President last September invited ethnic Chinese businessmen John Gokongwei, Henry Sy, Andrew Gotianun and representatives of George Ty and Alfonso Yuchengco to a Palace lunch where she asked them to help develop idle government properties.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the meeting tackled "specific ideas and specific projects" and that the President was elated over the positive response from the businessmen.

Camacho noted then that the multiplier effect of housing activities to the economy was about 11 percent.

By tapping Vistan, the Macapagal administration will be able to use his extensive experience in banking.

Aside from Landbank, Vistan has occupied top positions at Citibank, Solidbank, Metrobank and Equitable-PCIbank. He used to head the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

He now manages his own financial consultancy in Makati.

"I can help by lining up banks that could provide the home mortgage mechanism for the program and put together private sector resources on the side of the taipans, for example," Vistan said.

Michael Defensor, the head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council that oversees the government's entire housing program, said Vistan's appointment as coordinator of the program would put real focus on the project.

"He will also be instrumental in getting the private sector involved," he said in a phone interview.

Defensor said the Cabinet was informed of the President's plan to tap Vistan during the two-day informal meeting of her official family in Clark Field, Pampanga last week.

MJ's backers vent ire on foreign affairs dep't

By Juliet L. Javellana

AFTER pummeling the justice department, congressmen yesterday turned their ire on the Department of Foreign Affairs for acting "super fast" on the United States' request for the extradition of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

During the second joint hearing on Jimenez's status by the House justice and foreign relations committees, Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada asked why the DFA endorsed the extradition request to the DOJ on the same day it was received.

Lozada, chair of the foreign relations committee, said the DFA received US note verbale 0522 in the morning of June 16, 1999 and forwarded it to the DOJ in the afternoon.

The note verbale should not have been immediately forwarded to the DOJ, Lozada said. Instead, the former diplomat added, the DFA should have asked its legal department to evaluate the request because of "already questionable" judgments against Jimenez.

In the request, the US sought assistance for the arrest and extradition of Jimenez, whom it described as a "very powerful man." The request also sought "seizure of articles in possession of the fugitive which may serve as evidence."

"The DFA believed in everything (the US said) without conducting its own investigation," Lozada said. "(The action taken was) very fast, considering that there were many (other) international concerns." He said Domingo Siazon, foreign secretary at the time, might be summoned to the hearing to explain the apparent haste.

DFA Assistant Secretary Eloy Bello III explained that the department weighs not the substance of an extradition request, but whether the request conforms with the extradition treaty.

'Super fast'

Lozada asked if Bello agreed that the DFA action was "super fast." Bello said any comment would be passing judgment on Siazon.

The congressmen also reprimanded the DOJ, represented by Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez, for alleged eagerness to put Jimenez behind bars.

At one point during the hearing, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon asked Gutierrez, "Why do you want Congressman Jimenez in jail?"

Gutierrez explained that the DOJ merely wanted to comply with the government's treaty obligations, even as it upheld the Constitution as the fundamental law of the land.

She admitted that Jimenez's case posed a conflict between national interest and the rights of a private citizen. This was why, she said, the DOJ asked the Supreme Court to be the final arbiter on questions of law.

In a subsequent ruling, the SC cancelled Jimenez's P1 million bail. Gutierrez maintained that bail was not a matter of right in extradition cases, but could be granted at the discretion of a judge for special humanitarian and compelling reasons.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, another Jimenez ally, argued that the constitutional right to bail was absolute, like the prohibition against unlawful searches and seizures.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, chair of the justice committee, warned that overseas Filipino workers might be adversely affected if the high court ruling stayed.

He said foreign employers who want to harass OFWs could go after them by filing extradition cases.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula said the committee should ask the high court to change its ruling in view of the "infirmities" of Presidential Decree 1069, the extradition law.

Jaraula filed a bill seeking to amend the law so that Filipinos facing extradition could post bail.

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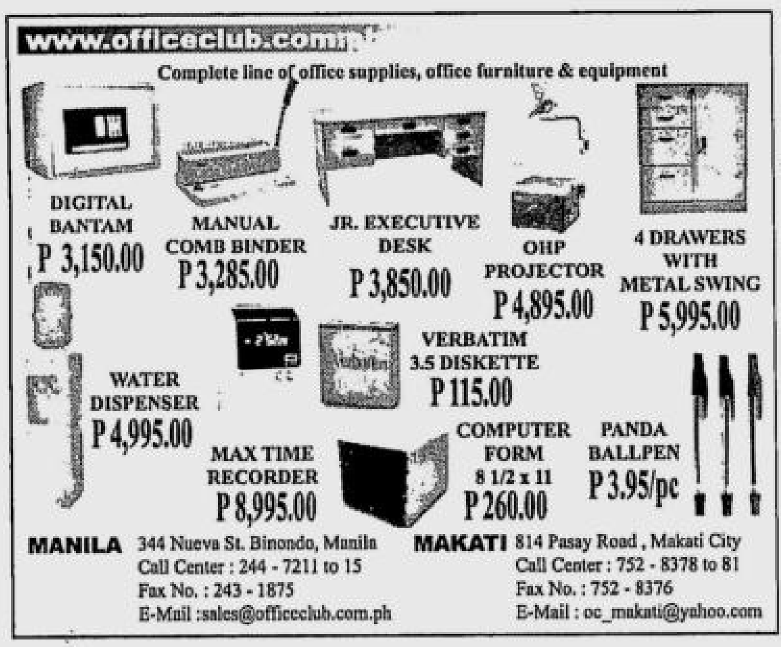

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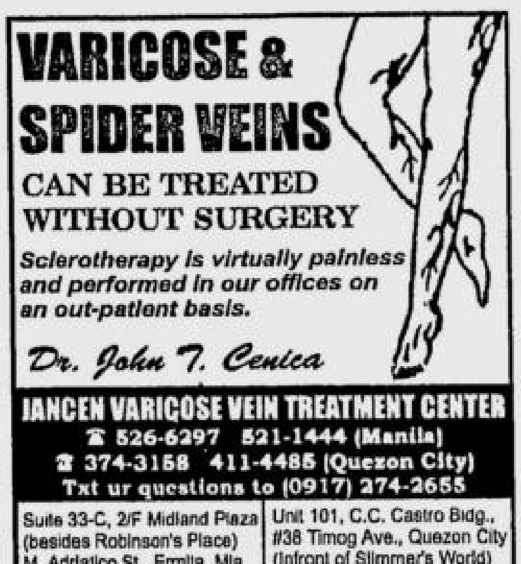

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Banking czar tapped to build gov't housing

By Carlito Pablo

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He described his role as acting as a bridge to large industrial and business groups—including the ethnic Chinese tycoons and the Ayala group—that will undertake the development of the state properties, and the banks that will put together a 20-year mortgage plan for the government employees.

VISTAN: Government housing czar

The President last September invited ethnic Chinese businessmen John Gokongwei, Henry Sy, Andrew Gotianun and representatives of George Ty and Alfonso Yuchengco to a Palace lunch where she asked them to help develop idle government properties.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the meeting tackled "specific ideas and specific projects" and that the President was elated over the positive response from the businessmen.

Camacho noted then that the multiplier effect of housing activities to the economy was about 11 percent.

By tapping Vistan, the Macapagal administration will be able to use his extensive experience in banking.

Aside from Landbank, Vistan has occupied top positions at Citibank, Solidbank, Metrobank and Equitable-PCIbank. He used to head the Bankers Association of the Philippines.

He now manages his own financial consultancy in Makati.

"I can help by lining up banks that could provide the home mortgage mechanism for the program and put together private sector resources on the side of the taipans, for example," Vistan said.

Michael Defensor, the head of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council that oversees the government's entire housing program, said Vistan's appointment as coordinator of the program would put real focus on the project.

"He will also be instrumental in getting the private sector involved," he said in a phone interview.

Defensor said the Cabinet was informed of the President's plan to tap Vistan during the two-day informal meeting of her official family in Clark Field, Pampanga last week.

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MJ's backers vent ire on foreign affairs dep't

By Juliet L. Javellana

AFTER pummeling the justice department, congressmen yesterday turned their ire on the Department of Foreign Affairs for acting "super fast" on the United States' request for the extradition of Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

During the second joint hearing on Jimenez's status by the House justice and foreign relations committees, Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada asked why the DFA endorsed the extradition request to the DOJ on the same day it was received.

Lozada, chair of the foreign relations committee, said the DFA received US note verbale 0522 in the morning of June 16, 1999 and forwarded it to the DOJ in the afternoon.

The note verbale should not have been immediately forwarded to the DOJ, Lozada said. Instead, the former diplomat added, the DFA should have asked its legal department to evaluate the request because of "already questionable" judgments against Jimenez.

In the request, the US sought assistance for the arrest and extradition of Jimenez, whom it described as a "very powerful man." The request also sought "seizure of articles in possession of the fugitive which may serve as evidence."

"The DFA believed in everything (the US said) without conducting its own investigation," Lozada said. "(The action taken was) very fast, considering that there were many (other) international concerns." He said Domingo Siazon, foreign secretary at the time, might be summoned to the hearing to explain the apparent haste.

DFA Assistant Secretary Eloy Bello III explained that the department weighs not the substance of an extradition request, but whether the request conforms with the extradition treaty.

'Super fast'

Lozada asked if Bello agreed that the DFA action was "super fast." Bello said any comment would be passing judgment on Siazon.

The congressmen also reprimanded the DOJ, represented by Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez, for alleged eagerness to put Jimenez behind bars.

At one point during the hearing, Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon asked Gutierrez, "Why do you want Congressman Jimenez in jail?"

Gutierrez explained that the DOJ merely wanted to comply with the government's treaty obligations, even as it upheld the Constitution as the fundamental law of the land.

She admitted that Jimenez's case posed a conflict between national interest and the rights of a private citizen. This was why, she said, the DOJ asked the Supreme Court to be the final arbiter on questions of law.

In a subsequent ruling, the SC cancelled Jimenez's P1 million bail. Gutierrez maintained that bail was not a matter of right in extradition cases, but could be granted at the discretion of a judge for special humanitarian and compelling reasons.

Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, another Jimenez ally, argued that the constitutional right to bail was absolute, like the prohibition against unlawful searches and seizures.

Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, chair of the justice committee, warned that overseas Filipino workers might be adversely affected if the high court ruling stayed.

He said foreign employers who want to harass OFWs could go after them by filing extradition cases.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula said the committee should ask the high court to change its ruling in view of the "infirmities" of Presidential Decree 1069, the extradition law.

Jaraula filed a bill seeking to amend the law so that Filipinos facing extradition could post bail.

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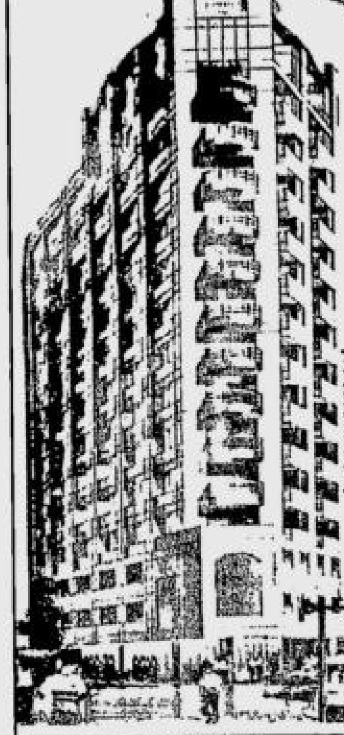

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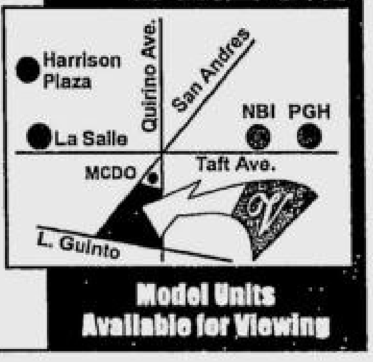

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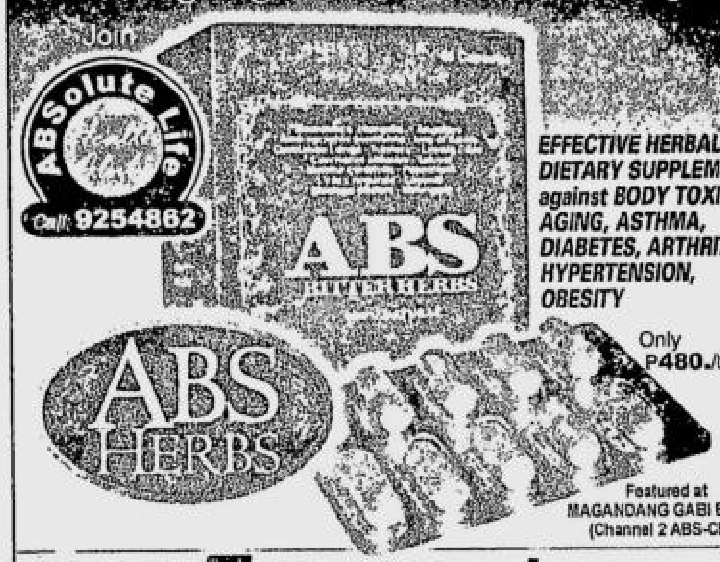

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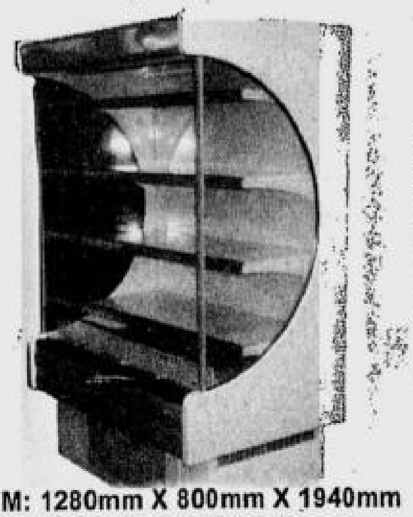

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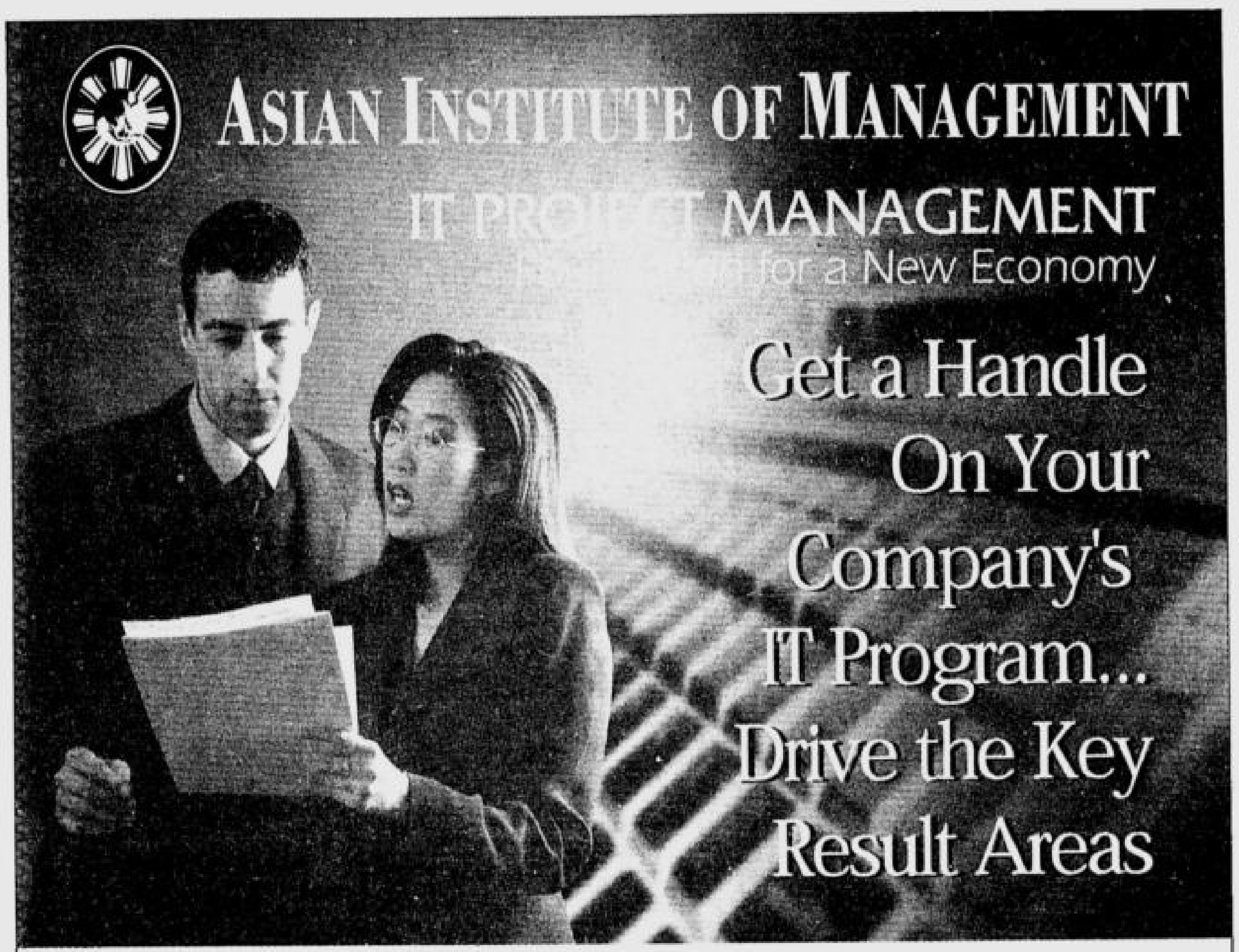

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TOMMY B. LOPEZ is a core faculty mentor in AIM's Master in Management Program. He is the institutes Guru of Services Marketing and the emerging field of One-to-One Marketing. His areas of specialization include Information Technology, Social Marketing, Development Communication, Corporate Social Responsibility, Entrepreneurship, and Strategic Management.

GASTON D. ORTIGAS, JR. serves on the core faculty of the Master in Development Management and the Master in Business Management programs. He teaches Total Quality Management, Operations Management, and Information Management. Among his current research areas of interest are Sustainable Enterprise Management, Electronic Commerce, Knowledge Management, and Flexible Learning Methodologies.

RICKY A. LIM is Associate Professor for the MBM program of AIM since 1991, conducting classes and seminars in Information Technology, Knowledge Management, and Business Communications. He is a doctoral candidate at the Marshall School of Business at University of Southern California. His dissertation topic is on "Cognitive Maps in ISD Teams".

JOSE JESUS F. ROCES is a member of the core faculty of the Center for Executive Education and Lifelong Learning. His areas of specialization encompass Marketing, Finance and Human Resource Development, with particular emphasis on the strategic marketing, e-marketing, and CRM.

ARMI RUBY MARIE H. CORTES is a member of the core faculty at the Center for Executive Education and Lifelong Learning. She teaches Information Technology Management, e-Commerce, and e-Governance. She is an active IT industry specialist for DAI-Agile, an organization under the umbrella of the USAID.

ARMI DE GUZMAN-TREÑAS is an adjunct faculty of AIM. She was formerly deputy president for the IT Division of Transnational Diversified Group, initiating the development and implementation of the company's business process outsourcing, call center, and e-training operations. She has a Master in Management from AIM, graduating with distinction in May 1999.

ARUP MAITY Mr. Maity is the founder and current president and CEO of Blastasia Inc. a leading provider of Internet-based Customer Relationship Management solutions. Arup has been involved in every aspect of setting up the business. His organizational abilities and his understanding of the different Internet programming languages have helped in the conceptualization and implementation of the Blastasia software modules. In addition to his responsibilities as CEO, he also heads its R&D group. Mr. Maity completed his MBA from the Asian Institute of Management in 1997

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Mehan Garden car park ordered to pay P7.5 M

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez yesterday ordered the company that built a parking terminal inside the Mehan Gardens in Lawton, Manila to pay P7.35 million in penalties for constructing inside a historical landmark.

Ordered to pay was Park N' Ride Inc. which, Alvarez said, violated Presidential Decree 1586 for building Park N' Ride Terminal without an environmental compliance certificate (ECC), and ignored a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on Aug. 13 last year against the construction.

Alvarez said the CDO was upheld by a National Historical Institute (NHI) resolution on Aug. 14 this year, formally declaring Mehan as a "historical landmark."

Yesterday's directive was prompted by the resolution, Alvarez said.

"The DENR served a notice of violation and the CDO last year, when the NHI was not yet clear on the nature of the site," Alvarez recounted. Now that the Mehan's category was clear, he said, "there is no doubt that we are duty-bound to protect it."

It is against the law to modify, alter, repair or destroy the original features of any national shrine, monument, landmark and other important historical edifices.

In the NHI resolution, the Mehan Gardens, located on the site of the old Parian in Arroceros, was described as the "trade center of Chinese merchants that flourished from the late 16th to the 18th centuries," and "part of the historic Jardin Botanico established by Gov. Gen. Fernando Norzagaray in 1858 to be Manila's first botanical and zoological garden."

In 1913, the NHI added, Jardin Botanico was renamed Mehan Gardens after John C. Mehan, American chief of sanitation and park superintendent.

ALVAREZ

The resolution was signed by NHI chair Ambeth Ocampo and board members Serafin Quiason, Heidi Gloria, Corazon Alvina and Prudenciana Cruz.

On June 25, 2001, the DENR issued an ECC to Park N' Ride Inc., but received two letters of complaint from the NHI and a certification that Mehan Gardens was a historical landmark. The NHI accused Park N' Ride Inc. of misrepresentation for failing to disclose to the DENR when it applied for an ECC that the area was a historical landmark.

That was when the DENR issued the notice of violation and CDO, nullifying the ECC.

The DENR is fining Park N' Ride Inc. P50,000 per day for a total of 146 days—the duration of the construction from August 22, 2001 to February 14, 2002—plus an additional P50,000 for implementing the project prior to the issuance of a valid ECC

Suspect in ex-dad's slay slain in shootout

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SUSPECT in the murder of former Manila councilor Chika Go was shot dead at noon yesterday near Manila City Hall.

Victor Macaldo, 27, of Bacoor, Cavite was shot in the jaw while he was being brought to court, police said.

Two unidentified gunmen on a motorcycle shot at the police car Macaldo was riding in. He was reportedly killed in the crossfire when his police escorts fired back.

Investigators said they were not sure if the gunmen wanted to free Macaldo or kill him.

Initial reports said the two gunmen rode up beside the police car and opened fire. Macaldo then reportedly grabbed the gun of one of his escorts while the others returned the gunmen's fire.

It was then that Macaldo was hit in the right jaw, with the bullet exiting in the left side of his head. He also sustained a bullet wound in his left knee.

The suspects managed to escape. Investigators are trying to determine who shot Macaldo.

Macaldo was arrested on Sept. 1 for the ambush of Go.

A witness positively identified him as one of two motorcycle-riding men who peppered Go's Mitsubishi Pajero with bullets while it was stuck in traffic on Reina Regente St. in Binondo, Manila last Aug. 10.

Go died later that day at the Metropolitan Hospital from the five gunshot wounds to his body. He had received death threats before the ambush.

While in detention, Macaldo reportedly admitted being a hired gun and confessed to several killings and other crimes. He never admitted being involved in Go's ambush, however.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, October 9, 2002
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14
Gospel: Lk 11:1-4

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say this:

Father, hallowed be your name, may your kingdom come, give us each day the kind of bread we need, and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive all who do us wrong, and do not bring us to the test."

Commentary

We are in a Lucan turf; namely, prayer. Jesus, the Master, who is asked by the disciples to teach them how to pray, is himself praying. Such is a true master. What he teaches is what he himself has learned and practiced. This type of teaching is what our times need: we teach first of all by our deeds and, if and when necessary, also by our words. For, prayer is something not caught through lectures but by praying itself. More than anything else, we learn to pray when we know to whom we are related. That is why Jesus enjoins the disciples to know who God is and who they are before God. We need to experience first being addressed, so that in prayerful response we can utter: Abba/Immal (Papa/Mamal). The rest is just a result of this. Such is the pre-requisite for Christian prayer, or any prayer for that matter. And Jesus, the Master, has consistently shown this to be the dynamics of his human life. Follow, therefore, this dynamics and you will learn how to pray.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Difference between issuance of a writ of execution and the awarding of execution—The issuing of an execution is a ministerial act, and must be carefully distinguished from the awarding of an execution, which is a judicial act. To award is to adjudge, to give anything by judicial sentence and when it is said that a party is awarded an execution upon a judgment it should be understood thereby that it is judicially declared that this party has a right to have the judgment executed xxx the right of a party to have an execution having been duly adjudged, the mere issuing of the writ when the time for its issuance as prescribed by law has arrived; that is to say, the preparation and delivery of the formal writ or order in the sheriff or other officer charged with the execution of judgments, directing him to proceed with the execution is a mere compliance with the provisions of the award of judgment and essentially a purely ministerial act. Succinctly stated, the function of ordering the execution of a judgment, being judicial, devolves upon the judge, whereas the act of issuing a writ of execution, being ministerial, can be performed by another person, viz: the clerk of court. As the rule now stands, the clerk of court may, under the direction of the court or judge, make out and sign all writs and processes issuing from the court. In short, a Clerk of Court has no other duty but to issue the writ in accordance with the grant. It is a well-settled principle that a writ of execution must conform substantially to every essential principle of the judgment promulgated. Execution which is not in harmony with the judgment is bereft of validity. It must conform particularly to that ordained in the dispositive portion of the decision. An order of execution which varies the tenor of the judgment or exceeds the terms thereof is a nullity. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Separa v. Maceda, A. M. No. P-02-1546, April 18, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

DPWH head can't be acting PEA head

MALACAÑANG will replace Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong as acting general manager of the Public Estates Authority for conflict of interest.

Datumanong's temporary post in the PEA reportedly conflicts with his post as ex-oficio chair of the Toll Regulatory Board.

"The Palace is looking for another possible OIC-general manager," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Datumanong however will remain as acting PEA chair while the entire PEA board is being investigated for the alleged overpricing of the P1 billion Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard.

Bunye said it was Datumanong who asked to be replaced.

Datumanong reportedly found out that the TRB, which he heads, is trying to declare PEA in default in a certain project for non-compliance of the contract.

"He might find himself in a situation where he's the one fighting (PEA) for default (yet) he'll also be the one answering (the charge)," said Bunye.

Datumanong reportedly also cited a conflict in schedule.

Meralco says it can't overcharge because of ERC

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MANILA Electric Co. reiterated yesterday that it could not be overcharging its customers because of strict regulation by the Energy Regulatory Commission.

Camilo Quiason, Meralco corporate secretary and general counsel, said in a statement that the highly regulated nature of public utilities was in itself a safeguard against overcharging and other profit manipulation schemes the power firm has been accused of.

Quiason, a former Supreme Court justice, was reacting to recent charges by former senator Juan Ponce Enrile that Meralco's contract with its affiliated independent power producer, First Gas Power Corp., meant fuel and power overcharges totaling some P70 billion.

Enrile had also questioned how the Lopez family was able to regain control of Meralco when they had "begged" then President Ferdinand Marcos to have the government bail them out of the deeply-indebted company.

In a statement, Quiason said: "Meralco has to secure (ERC approval) for changes in its rates, terms and conditions of service, capital structure, major additions to its rate base, appraisal of its assets, contracts with IPPs, and for many other things."

Although the official said the media was not the proper forum for Enrile to lodge his sweeping accusations, Quiason made the following points:

* All Meralco charges appearing in customers' bills—including the purchased power adjustment (PPA)—are legitimate, with basis and may be verified with the ERC;

* Meralco has not raised its distribution charges (or basic charge) since February 1994 and its consolidated petition for a rate hike of 30 centavos per kilowatt hour and for the unbundling of its rates is still pending with the ERC;

* Since 1994, Meralco has poured in P51 billion in capital expenses to upgrade and expand its distribution system despite its continually declining profitability;

* Meralco's electrification programs have provided electricity to 97 percent of all households within its franchise area which covers Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, and parts of Laguna, Batangas, Cavite and Quezon.

* Meralco's socialized rates provide affordable electricity to customers using 50 kilowatt hours or less per month, which accounts for 700,000 or 17 percent of the firm's residential customers.

"We have never taken our public utility status as a license to inflict pain on hapless consumers," Quiason said. "Constrained as we are in terms of finances, Meralco has never reneged in its commitment to provide efficient and reliable service to its customers."

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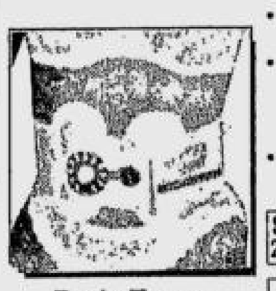

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RUNNING THE GAUNTLET

9 aspirants for SC face JBC grilling

By Michael Lim Ubac

NINE legal big shots who are aiming for a seat in the country's highest court faced the members of the Judicial and Bar Council during marathon panel interviews at the Supreme Court yesterday.

The nine are vying for the position vacated by SC Associate Justice Santiago M. Kapunan, who retired on Aug. 12.

First to be interviewed at 10 a.m. was Adolfo Azcuna, the presidential legal counsel of former President Corazon Aquino and a two-time applicant who failed to get himself appointed when the JBC vetted candidates for two earlier high court vacancies last month.

He was followed by the Court of Appeals acting presiding justice Cancio Garcia, private lawyer Eduardo Inlayo and CA Associate Justices Eugenio Labitoria and Delilah Vidallon Magtolis.

It was 2 a.m. by the time Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Gregory Ong, Presidential Anti-Graft Commission chair Dario Rama, CA Associate Justice Ruben Reyes and SC court administrator Presbitero Velasco Jr. were interviewed.

Azcuna was briefly in the limelight when President Macapagal-Arroyo publicly expressed a desire to have him appointed to the high court last month.

It is said that Ms Macapagal had promised former President Aquino that Azcuna would be included in the JBC list.

Azcuna, however, failed to make it to the short list transmitted by the JBC to the President on Aug. 14.

Under the law, the President is allowed to choose only from the names submitted by the JBC.

Ms Macapagal thereafter appointed CA Associate Justices Romeo Callejo and Conchita-Carpio Morales to fill up the positions vacated by SC associate justices Jose A.R. Melo and Sabino de Leon.

3 votes only

Azcuna reportedly managed to obtain only three votes during the JBC secret voting last month. To get into the short list, an applicant must obtain a majority vote or at least four votes.

Unable to make it the first time, Azcuna then renewed his application for the SC post.

Acting Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario declined her nomination and did not show up for her 2 p.m. interview.

In a letter to the JBC, Nazario explained that she wanted to devote her time to carrying out her duties as presiding justice of the anti-graft court and concurrent chair of the Sandiganbayan Special Division.

It was the high court justices who handpicked Nazario last year to chair the special division that is handling the plunder and criminal cases against jailed ex-president Joseph Estrada.

Just as in last week's series of panel interviews for aspirants for the Ombudsman's post, yesterday's interviews were open to the public. Section 1, Rule 7 of the revised rules of the JBC requires transparency in the selection process for vacancies in the judiciary.

The public was, however, not allowed to directly ask questions from the nine SC aspirants. Queries were coursed through JBC members who decided whether to raise the issues or not.

Azcuna was barraged with questions relating to a complaint from civil society group, the Bantay Katarungan led by former Senate President Jovito Salonga, accusing him of allegedly fronting for a dummy of Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, the brother-in-law of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The group said that Azcuna, while president and board chair of the Transmiddle East Philippines Equities Inc., made it possible for Romualdez to take control of PCI Bank during martial law.

"I don't know that," Azcuna answered. "I have no knowledge and participation (relating to) the acquisition of shares. It was done very much behind my back without my knowledge."

But three JBC members—Amado Dimayuga, Hermosisimo and Teresita Cruz-Sison—told Azcuna that as head of the dummy firm, he should have inquired about the deal.

"I was assured that everything was done according to corporate practice," Azcuna responded.

Questioned by retired SC Justice Regino Hermosisima regarding his views on capital punishment, Azcuna said: "The decision is correct. The law is clearly within the powers of Congress (to enact) under the Constitution."

Not a heinous crime

But he said he believed that plunder should not be considered a heinous crime that would warrant the imposition of the death penalty.

If he should be chosen, Azcuna said he wanted to "bring the Supreme Court closer to the poor."

Garcia, asked why he should be appointed SC justice, answered: "The judiciary is already my life. I want to cap my career by being a member of the SC. It is a dream any member of the judiciary should aspire for."

Despite being already 65 years old, he said he was still physically capable of handling the challenging tasks of a high court magistrate.

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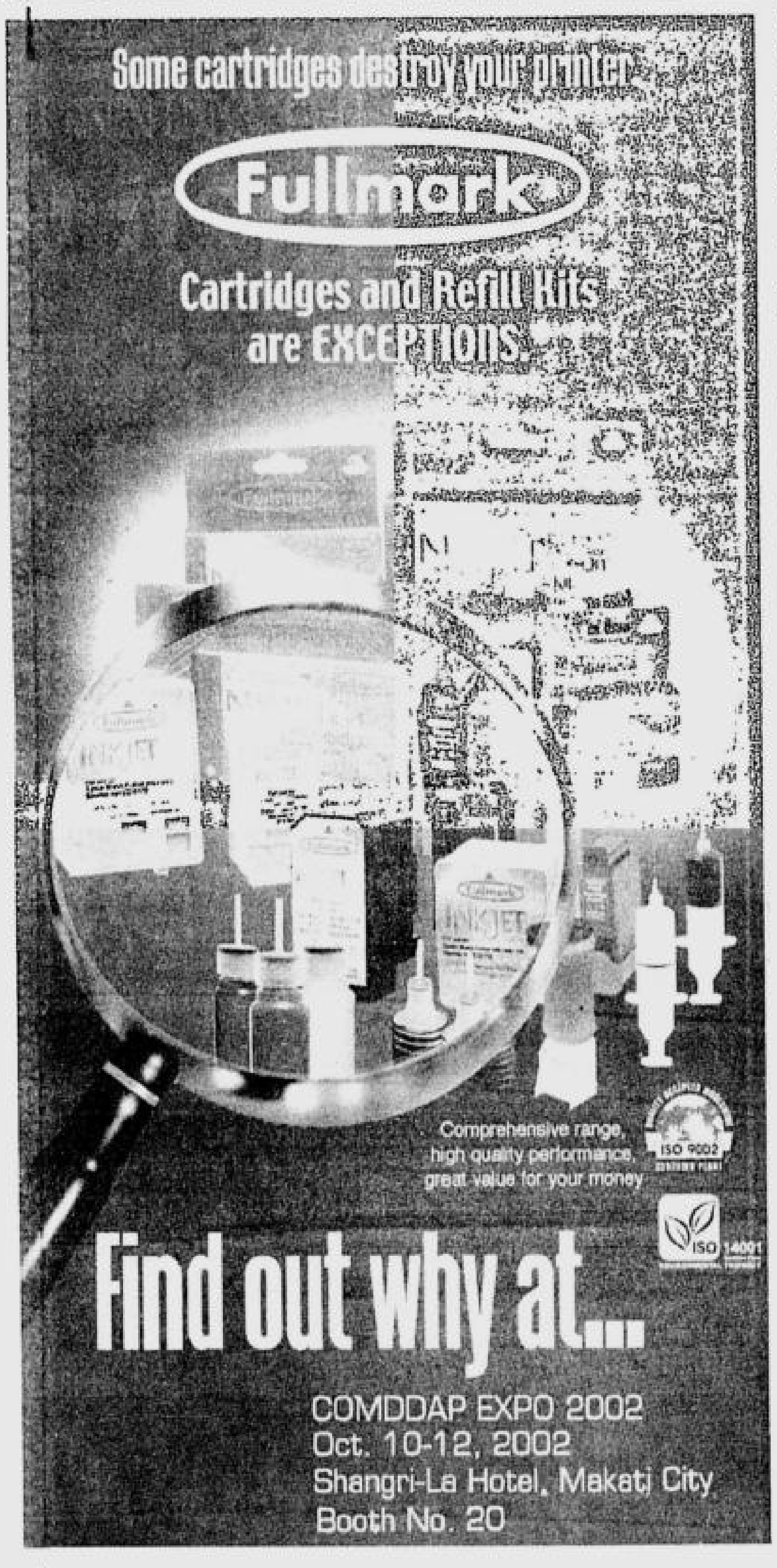
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Petron hikes LPG prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

OIL giant Petron Corp. yesterday announced it was increasing prices of liquefied petroleum gas by P1.25 per kilogram, to take effect at midnight last night, following similar moves by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Total-FinaElf Phil.

The move translates to an increase of P13.75 per 11-kg cylinder of LPG which is the main fuel used for cooking in the country.

Virginia Ruivivar, Petron's corporate communications manager, explained the increase as owing to a rise in international LPG contract prices of about $40 per metric ton.

"This translates to an increase in local prices by P2.20 per kg," Ruivivar said.

Asked if there would be another round of LPG price increases this month, the Petron executive said the company was still weighing its options.

The price increase brought Petron Gasul retail prices to a range of P269 and P272.

In an earlier interview, Ruivivar said LPG contract prices have been on the rise since March, keeping pace with rising crude prices.

She said the demand for heating fuel in Western countries at the onset of winter was pushing LPG prices up.

US SEC asked to investigate Marcos money laundering

By Donna S. Cueto

THE UNITED States Congress has taken notice of the laundering of the Swiss deposits of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 as revealed by a former employee of the global accounting giant KPMG Intl.

Marie-Gabrielle Koller, a Canadian solicitor and barrister who was known only as Madame Z before she came out in the open, testified in a French parliamentary probe on money laundering in May 2000 that she learned of the "midnight" transfers of at least $400 million in secret Marcos funds at the Credit Suisse bank while employed at the KPMG in Zurich.

Indiana Rep. Dan Burton, who chairs the government reform and oversight committee of the US Congress, has asked the US Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate KPMG, particularly on its alleged role in the laundering of Marcos Swiss deposits, before a freeze order was handed down in March 1986.

Burton noted that his office had been informed that there was already evidence presented to the US SEC against KPMG concerning "money laundering and subversion of a joint Philippine and Swiss freeze order for a series of accounts containing millions of US dollars."

Burton has also asked the relevant US congressional committees to look into the the allegations.

Secret transfer

Koller had testified that at least $400 million in Marcos deposits being kept in Credit Suisse was transferred to Limag AG, a Liechtenstein subsidiary, with the help of KPMG in Switzerland. She said she stumbled on this secret transfer while she was working for the KPMG in 1996 and 1997.

KPMG reportedly had strong ties with Credit Suisse.

The INQUIRER published a series on Koller's explosive revelations in May 2001.

Last year, Koller is said to have sent her information to US authorities but got no response.

Last month, a Chicago-based newspaper reported that Koller had privately offered to provide evidence to the Philippine government in exchange for a portion of the amount recovered.

Various legal experts have urged both the US and Philippine governments to take advantage of Koller's revelations to go after the Marcoses, the Swiss banks and possibly Swiss officials involved in the fraud.

If the government request were to be made on the laundered Marcos accounts, these funds could be returned to the Philippines, a source said.

Burton said his staff had been informed that the Philippine government would "formally request the (US) SEC to take a civil and administrative action against the KPMG to return these accounts."

"I'm aware that the SEC cannot comment about ongoing investigations. However, I would appreciate your office keeping me updated as to a resolution of this important matter," Burton said in an Aug. 23, 2002 letter to Karen Pennington, assistant regional director of the US SEC.

Listed in US markets

Last month, former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez brought to Pennington's attention Koller's revelations and urged her to investigate.

He said the banks allegedly involved in the laundering, the Union Bank of Switzerland and Credit Suisse, were listed in the US stock exchanges and the alleged professional intermediary, the KPMG, may be subject to US jurisdiction.

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US may have Saddam removed in 4 months, says ex-US envoy

By Norman Bordadora

THE UNITED States will try to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from power in the next four months if the United Nations fails to secure unfettered access to suspected weapons sites in the Middle East country.

Former American ambassador Stephen Bosworth, now dean of law and foreign service at Tufts University, said yesterday there was a 70 percent probability the US would effect a regime change in Iraq "between now and February."

"If Iraq won't remove its weapons of mass destruction, then something will happen. We will be militarily engaged to remove the regime," Bosworth said, "hopefully as part of a coalition."

Bosworth, ambassador to Manila from 1984 to 1987, is in the country as part of American efforts to assuage allies' fears on the US-Iraq conflict.

He was scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who had named him to her advisory council.

He said the US has made it a policy to "vigorously" explain to other nations its position on the threat posed by Iraq with its potential for mass destruction.

"We are confident we would get a favorable response on some (proposed) UN resolutions," Bosworth said.

Bu he said the US was poised to attack Iraq even if it didn't get a favorable response from the Security Council on the resolutions it had filed on the Iraqi crisis.

"I imagine there would be ground troops involved... and they would probably be in rubber suits. (They must) make their move before the temperature in the Iraqi desert hits 120 degrees," Bosworth said.

He said the US would push through with an attack on Iraq despite the destabilizing effect this would have on the Middle East and throughout the world.

"Basically, (the concern) would be about oil," he said.

He said the Gulf War in 1990 caused an international oil crisis, especially after Iraq destroyed the Kuwaiti oil fields.

"A post-Saddam Iraq would be a mess. It would probably be like Afghanistan (after the Taliban was ousted), except that there is no (group like the) Northern Alliance that could take over," he said.

He said he doubted the opposition Iraqi National Congress would be a plausible successor to the Hussein regime.

"We are not sure if they enjoy that much support from the Iraqi people," he said.

Bosworth made history as the envoy who relayed the US' withdrawal of support for strongman Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, an act that led to the late dictator's downfall.

Malacañang affirmed yesterday its support for Washington in a possible unilateral military attack against Iraq. *With Carlito Pablo*

Union raps a desperate move–Alvarez

SECRETARY Heherson Alvarez has branded as "a desperate move" the filing of a graft complaint against him by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Employees Union for hiring 195 consultants more than the number allowed under civil service rules.

Alvarez said the charge was a "rehashed accusation made by those who had opposed my confirmation. What they failed to achieve at the Commission on Appointments, they are desperately trying to achieve by forum-shopping."

The DENREU last week filed before the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission the same complaint it had filed against Alvarez during his confirmation hearing at the CA—that Alvarez had hired 195 consultants who were paid a total of P56 million by the DENR.

The union's assertion, Alvarez said, was short on facts and long on exaggeration.

He said the consultants were hired to do short-term jobs for specific programs, and were not confidential agents or political consultants as alleged by the DENREU.

He said some were hired for two months, others for six. Records of the Assistant Secretary for Management Services showed that in 2001, 160 contracts of employment were signed, which all expired in December 2001. Between January and June this year, 193 consultants were hired.

Alvarez said that from January 2001 to June 2002, P21.4 million—not P56 million as claimed by the DENREU—was spent to pay the contractuals' salaries. Of this, P10.3 million had come from the DENR's regular fund. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Court won't deny ex-nun's suit vs priest

SAN FERNANDO, California—A Superior Court judge denied a Roman Catholic priest's motion to dismiss a lawsuit brought by a former nun who said the man raped her in the Philippines in 1983 and fathered her son.

The Rev. Ernesto Villaroya's motion, claiming the court has no jurisdiction because the alleged rape took place out of the country, was denied on Monday without prejudice by Judge L. Jeffrey Wiatt, meaning it could be refiled in the future.

Villaroya, assistant pastor at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church in Ennis, Texas, lived in the Los Angeles area in the 1990s before transferring to the Dallas Diocese in 1996. Church officials in Dallas said he told them he had been caring for his parents in California.

The woman filed suit Aug. 8 in Superior Court, accusing the priest of assault and battery.

Sylvia Abano Martinez Arambulo, who has lived in Los Angeles since 1995, also sued the archdiocese, claiming it covered up the rape. *AP*

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OPINION

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One plus one

Editorial

WHO kidnapped a GMA-7 reporter and a cameraman in Indanan, Sulu, last Sept. 28?

The victims, who were set free on Oct. 3, are convinced that Hadja Jarma Mohammad Imran, alias Hadja Lyn, was behind their abduction. Hadja Lyn was the woman who offered to set up an interview with four Indonesian seamen kidnapped earlier by the Abu Sayyaf for Carlo Lorenzo and his cameraman, Gilbert Ordiales. It was she who brought them to the mountain where the kidnapping took place, said Lorenzo, and so she had "a lot of explaining to do."

Police investigators also consider Hadja Lyn as a principal suspect in the abduction. On Monday, they charged her with kidnapping and illegal detention. She is now being held at the Sulu provincial jail.

Hadja Lyn, however, says she is a fall guy. "They jailed me, but the real kidnappers are still free," she complained.

Hadja Lyn, a former realtor who became a military "asset," said it was her three security escorts who committed the crime, and all of them were working with the intelligence officer of the 104th Infantry Brigade. One was a corporal and the other two were former MNLF rebels who had been integrated into the Armed Forces of the Philippines, she said.

Sulu Gov. Yusop Jakiri said two soldiers detailed as security to Hadja Lyn have been identified. One is a regular member of the force, while the other was with the Jolo Internal Defense Force.

In the face of these revelations, the AFP denies that any of its men were involved. "It is unfair to the soldiers to be swiftly branded as kidnappers," Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina protested. He said the involvement of military men had not been established.

Curiously, the AFP's self-absolution is being supported by the victims. Lorenzo has denied ever telling INQUIRER correspondent Julie Alipala that soldiers were involved in their abduction. "What I said was that the escorts of Hadja Lyn were behind our abduction," he insisted.

A statement issued by GMA, however, acknowledged that Lorenzo referred to "military escorts" in an initial interview, but added that this was based only on what he had been told by Hadja Lyn. (No such qualification was made during the interview.) Ordiales told investigators who asked if he knew the abductors that they were "allegedly integrees."

Military officials have admitted that Hadja Lyn was an "asset," who had successfully arranged the surrender of several followers of MNLF leader Nur Misuari. Carolina said she had even been tapped by a government crisis management committee to help search for the Indonesia captives. Because of her work, he said, the military provided her with escorts.

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion said only military personnel were assigned as security escorts to people who were helping the military. "We don't assign civilians as escorts," he said.

At least this much seems clear: Hadja Lyn was a valuable military asset and so the military was providing her with escorts. As a matter of policy, only military personnel are given such assignment. In other words Hadja Lyn had military personnel as her escorts.

One thing has not been disputed: Hadja Lyn's escorts pulled off the abduction.

So if military men were assigned as Hadja Lyn's escorts and her escorts abducted the reporter and cameraman, what other conclusion is there to be drawn except that soldiers did it? if they don't add up, then one plus one is not equal to two.

Now where does the unfairness of linking soldiers to the kidnapping come in?

Food for thought

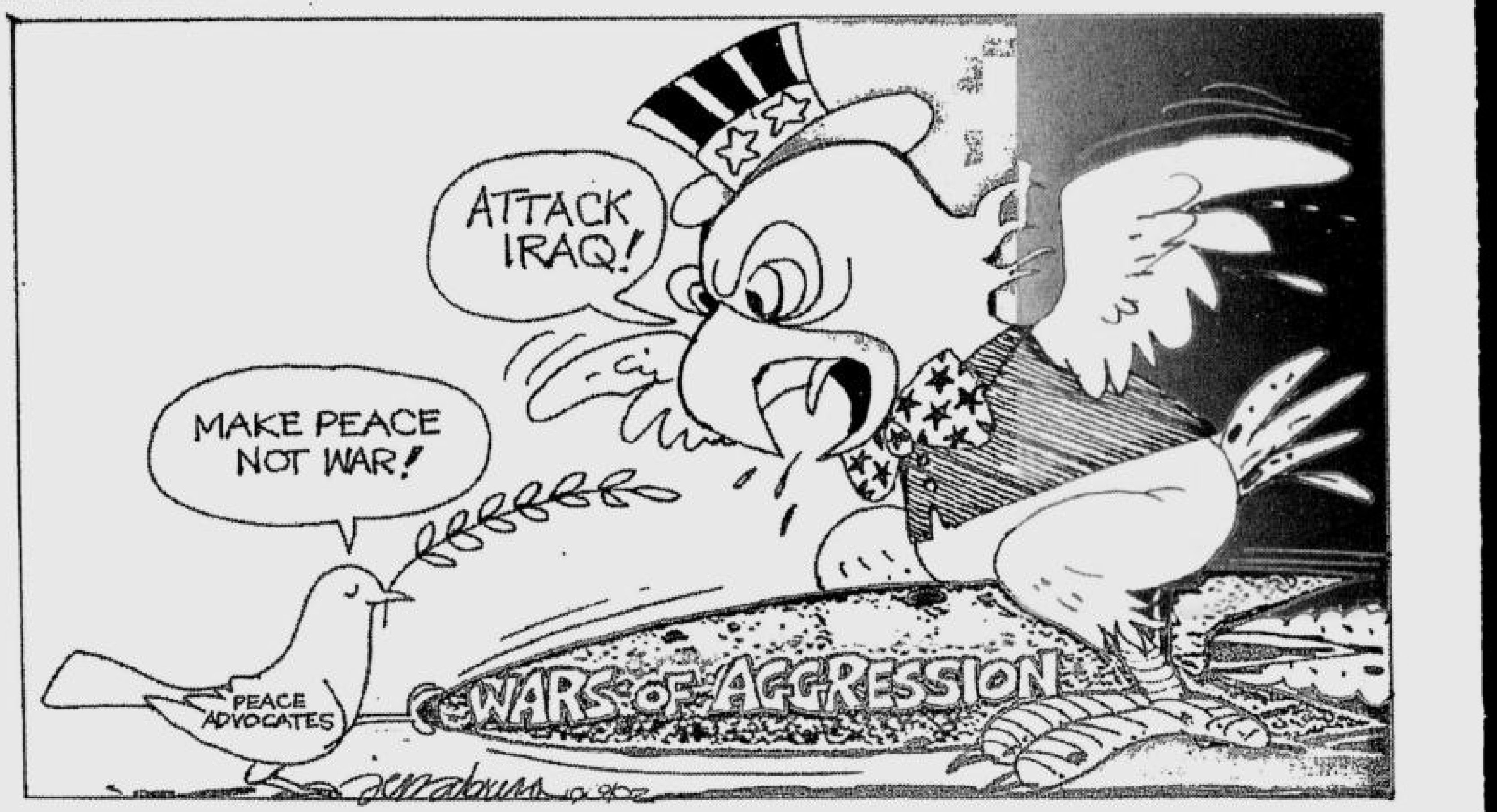
Foreign Comment

Small report, big implications. That's our reaction to an item in the paper last week, which quoted an authoritative American organization as saying that our population is set to decline by 25 percent between now and 2050.

If that were because South Africa was taking note of resources and sustainable development, and had found a sensible answer to curbing population growth, good and well. But the reality is that according to the Population Reference Bureau's data sheet about 5 million of our citizens are living with HIV/AIDS.

Even allowing for these figures being overstated, we believe the bureau has provided more than enough food for thought (a drop from 44 million people to 32.5 million). But will it lead to a more convincing approach from our government and health authorities?

The Star, (Johannesburg, South Africa)



National Printing Office is like a death convict

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

LIKE a death convict about to be executed, the about-to-be abolished National Printing Office, formerly the Bureau of Printing, got a reprieve when the House appropriations committee approved its budget for 2003 last Oct. 3. But that doesn't mean the death sentence of the NPO has been commuted. The reprieve is good only for one year; it could still get the lethal injection next year. The person who wants the NPO abolished is so influential.

Why does he want it abolished? So he can print all the printing needs of the national and local governments. And so he can buy at a bargain the printing equipment of the NPO for which the government invested more than P500 million. He wants to be the printing czar of the Philippines.

But that is not the most valuable property of the NPO. It is its new building and the 11,540 square meter prime lot it stands on along Edsa in Quezon City.

Yet that is not the most offensive part of the plot. The most dangerous part is that the printing of official ballots, land titles, marriage licenses, official receipts, cash tickets and other accountable and standard forms, as well as the Official Gazette, now being done by the NPO, will henceforth be done by private companies. Imagine what a security risk that would be. The crooks won't need Recto fakers anymore. They can have the genuine forms printed by the private printers.

The Official Gazette contains the text of laws passed by Congress as well as Supreme Court decisions. Words and phrases of the laws and decisions can be changed by the private printers to suit the needs of their clients. The printer can change the laws enacted by the legislators and the decisions of the courts.

Worst of all, with the official ballots being printed by private companies, there will be no sanctity of the ballot anymore. There can be no free and clean elections anymore.

That is the only reason we can see for the plot to abolish the NPO. For it is a money-making government agency. It remits an average of P100 million to the National Treasury every year. In fact, it is the only money making agency in the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) in spite the fact that the Asian Productivity Center (Apo), a private printing organization, is pirating and stealing its jobs.

Records of the Securities and Exchange Commission show that the Apo is a non-stock corporation, a private entity, not a government corporation. The Apo has been encroaching on NPO's mandate, which is opposed to its function as stated in Apo's articles of incorporation. While the NPO is an asset to the government, the Apo is a liability with P790 million in debts. The Commission on Audit, in a Special Audit Report in 1995 to 1998, enumerated the impracticability and disadvantage of maintaining the Apo. That is probably why it is undercutting the NPO, to insure its own survival.

Although the function and jurisdiction of the NPO is mandated by several laws, the Apo has been pirating NPO jobs. It has been soliciting printing jobs from various government agencies nationwide. It even dropped its prices below the official price list approved by Malacañang. The Apo justifies its action by saying it is a government agency. But when it comes to finances, it says it is a private corporation. Its income does not go to the government although it uses government assets and does not pay its loans.

What does the NPO really do?

As spelled out by Executive Order 285 dated July 25, 1987, NPO's mandate is to have exclusive printing jurisdiction over the following:

1. Printing, binding and distribution of all standard and accountable forms of national, provincial, city and municipal governments, including government corporations.
2. Printing of official ballots.
3. Printing of public documents such as the Official Gazette, General Appropriations Act, Philippine Reports and development information materials of the Philippine Information Agency.

On the mandate of the NPO to print the Official Gazette, Article 2 of the Civil Code provides that "all laws shall take effect after (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette."

Republic Act 8436 provides:

"The official ballots shall be printed by the National Printing Office and/or the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas at the price comparable with that of private printers under proper security measures which the Commission [on Elections] shall adopt. The Commission may contract the services of private printers upon certification by the National Printing Office/Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that it cannot meet the printing requirements. Accredited political parties and deputized citizens' arms of the Commission may assign watchers in the printing, storage and distribution of official ballots."

The plotters are doing better than that to assure that the printing of official ballots goes to private printers. They will abolish or deactivate the NPO.

The Presidential Committee on Effective Governance (Paeg) is reportedly making the studies and may recommend the abolition or deactivation of the NPO. The Apo is spreading this information.

When that happens, 615 permanent employees of the NPO will lose their jobs. The government will lose its investments in the lot, building, printing machineries and equipment of the NPO. Worse, the government will lose control and regulation of government accountable forms.

Worst of all, the electoral process will be placed in jeopardy if the printing of official ballots and other election paraphernalia will be done by private printers.

We should all resist this.

Pros and cons

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

THERE was one very interesting thing I heard in Germany before the elections. One analyst predicted that those elections were not going to produce a heavy turnout. He was wrong of course: The elections did draw voters to the polls, and even produced a record overseas vote. But he had a very curious reason for supposing the elections would not grip the public imagination.

That reason was that the elections offered little choice. There were really no sharp conflicts, he said, between Gerhard Schroeder's and Edmund Stoiber's positions. Of course Schroeder had scored points by speaking out against America's proposed war in Iraq, but Stoiber had followed suit, expressing serious reservations about it himself. As far as the economy went, well, there were some differences, chief of them the Greens' demand for added regulations to make industry more environment-friendly and the liberals' calls to lift taxes there. But that was all.

The elections, the analyst lamented, had lapsed into a battle of personalities rather than a battle of platforms. That, he said; was the reason it would produce a poor turnout.

What made it curious, from where I stood, was that it is the opposite of what we have here. Here of course, what is bound to push voters to go out and vote is not what the rival parties have to offer but who the rival parties have to offer. What is bound to lift sorry asses out of chairs, or beds, is not the prospect of voting for Lakas or Lamp but the prospect of voting for Erap or Fernando Poe Jr.

There are several explanations for this. Not the least of them is that nobody believes electoral promises anyway. They are as IOUs written on water, as the saying goes. Equally no one takes local political parties seriously, and for good reason. They are parties only in name. Here, the party is not bigger than its members, the members—notably the most prominent member—are bigger than the party. A party is only as good as its most prominent member is in power: It languishes, or disintegrates, after he, or she, is out of it, everyone flocking to the person—and party—in power.

And of course there is the "culture of personality" or "culture of patronage" that lies at the heart of things. A credible candidate brings votes, a credible platform does not. And what makes a candidate credible is not a winning formula but a winning smile.

Over the past few weeks, I've been wondering if a parliamentary system would help cure, or improve, this situation.

In the past, I've never been bullish about a shift to a parliamentary system for several reasons. Chief of them is the stability of government. The goings-on in the Senate must certainly give us pause in that respect. The spectacle of senators intermittently mounting a power grab to install a new Senate president for no other reason than that the opportunity is there cannot augur well for a government that exists at the sufferance of parliament.

The ease moreover with which senators and congressmen switch loyalties, if not parties, can make any government insecure. That was what happened during the last impasse in the Senate—an impasse created not by any momentously divisive issue but a mere show of hands—which was solved by Robert Jaworski crossing to Malacañang's side simply because his father-in-law, Ramon Revilla, talked him into it.

The stability of the parliamentary system in Germany and elsewhere owes to party loyalty, or to people joining, and sticking to, their parties because of what they represent. The most popular politician in Germany is not Schroeder or Stoiber, it is Joscka Fischer, the head of the Green Party. But he cannot change party without losing credibility.

That brings me to the advantages of a parliamentary system, something I've begun to appreciate of late. Particularly after I came home to much talk of Fernando Poe Jr. running for president in 2004. Popularity is clearly not a problem when a candidate owes his popularity not just to being charismatic (which Fischer is) but to having done some political good (the Greens stand for the environment). But it is a very definite problem when it owes to nothing more than that one is, or was, an entertainer. That is the bane plaguing Philippine politics today—its reduction to absurdity in basketball players, TV anchors and movie stars routinely becoming senators, and potentially presidents. In the case of FPJ, it is more than potential, it is near-certainty.

A parliamentary system solves this. The prime minister being voted by the members of parliament and not by the voters directly, it's not a party's most popular recruit that gets to be prime minister, it's the head of the victorious party. That at least is the tradition. Juan Ponce Enrile, who supports an FPJ candidacy, jokes that a parliamentary system is probably the only way by which Jose de Venecia is ever going to be head of the Philippine government, but I don't know that that joke isn't ultimately on us. The thought of another Erap does not inspire laughter.

There are other advantages. As the groups that are pushing for a parliamentary system have already pointed out, it could cut election costs. Presidential elections, where someone comes to power by the popular vote, entice candidates to spend a fortune to get—or buy—it. You don't have to look far to see this, you have only to look at the way President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is relentlessly using taxpayers' money to fund her early campaign. Additionally, a parliamentary system could encourage candidates to work at coalition-building, which is the only way to secure a majority in parliament, which in turn could encourage them to take political parties more seriously.

Pros and cons, but worth thinking about in these dire and desperate times.

The nature of Bush's new 'coalition'

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT George W. Bush is likely to get from the US Congress bipartisan support for a resolution authorizing him to attack Iraq if it does not dismantle its weapons of mass destruction. But flag-waving in the US, which is facing mid-term elections in November, is apparently not stampeding the rest of the world, excluding Britain, into joining Bush's forced march to war with Iraq.

Bush's war campaign has already stalled at the United Nations Security Council where three permanent members with veto power—France, Russia and China—are resisting the US diplomatic pressure on the council to pass a tough resolution requiring Iraq to disarm in quick time or risk attack by a new "coalition."

The term "coalition" is an empty word. In the US, Democrats who are seeking reelection or election and who have reservations with Bush's call for a "preemptive strike" on Iraq can only raise token opposition to the resolution, fearing they would be branded unpatriotic if they did not go along with him.

But this is not the case in the UN, where Bush's saber-rattling is raising fears among most members that he is dragging them to war without consultation in order to make America safe from a possible sneak attack by President Saddam Hussein.

The case for war has less support in the UN today than the 1991 invasion of Iraq by the US-led coalition. The 1991 invasion had a broad international base and was backed by an international consensus. What Bush can call a "coalition" today cannot count on international support, except from Britain and a few other countries, and has therefore weak legitimacy.

Following the Sept. 11 attack on the US by terrorists, there was international outrage against terrorism, prompting Le Monde, the intellectual and influential French newspaper, to declare, "We are all Americans." More than a year after Sept. 11, Europeans, much less the French, are not identifying themselves with US security interests. While they consider Saddam a menace and would like to see him go, they are also repelled by the muscular pressure being exerted by Washington to compel them to follow its lead.

In my travels to Europe last month, I got the sense, from the continental press at least, that there was widespread opinion that Bush had not made a persuasive case for attacking Iraq without first exhausting diplomatic options within the UN Security Council framework. Even in the UK, where Prime Minister Tony Blair is pushing Bush's war plans with a language more elegant and less coarse than that of Bush, the prime minister had to overcome a backbench rebellion of more than 50 MPs who were skeptical of Blair's "dossier" on Iraq's nuclear, biological and chemical warfare capability.

The bipartisan support that Bush expects to get from Congress for his draft resolution authorizing him to go to war on Iraq is certain to be perceived in Europe as an intensified pressure from Washington to make them toe the line. The combative posture and rhetoric of the Bush administration on Iraq have fueled anti-Americanism that had been running underneath the skin of the Europeans over the issue of American unilateralism related to economic, trade and environmental disputes.

The US and the European Union have clashed over trade and agricultural subsidies and protectionism. Europeans, as well as developing countries, have resented US rejection of the Tokyo Protocol on environmental protection. The Europeans say that, in the coalition sought by the US on Iraq, Washington wants them to fall in line behind its lead, while it chose to reject consensus on environmental issues.

The results of the German elections last month are a symptom of the rising anti-Americanism on the European continent. The Bush administration was outraged by the blunt declaration by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder that his Social Democratic government would not allow Germany to participate in America's war with Iraq. Bush savagely attacked Schroeder and the Social Democrats in a blatant attempt to influence the outcome of a closely contested election. This was seen by the Germans as interference in their elections and this meddling undoubtedly created a backlash that helped the Social Democrats and their Green allies turn the tide against Edmund Stroiber's Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union conservative coalition.

The US and the CDU have denounced Schroeder for using the Iraq issue for cheap political gain, but it cannot be denied that Schroeder had tapped a vein of anti-Americanism in Germany fostered by the awareness in Germany that it had become the most important economic, military and political power in Europe and that it was time for Berlin to stop being towed by the nose by the US.

France is taking, in the Iraq issue, a course independent of Bush's policy. It is pushing in the Security Council a two-stage resolution before military action is taken. The first stage involves the return of UN inspectors to Iraq to examine Iraq's suspected facilities for nuclear, chemical and biological weapons manufacture. The second involves going back to the council for another resolution authorizing military action if Saddam obstructs UN inspection. China supports the French proposal, while Russia insists that there's no need for a new resolution such as that sought by the US.

If Bush does not believe that his sabre-rattling has alienated the Europeans, he only has to replay the video tape and watch the fervor with which the European team celebrated its triumph over the US team, led by Tiger Woods, in last month's Ryder Cup. The anthems of the 15 member countries of the European Union were played and each time, the Europeans sang their anthems with intensity of feeling against the backdrop of their being Europeans. The Europeans are America's best allies. Without them, especially the Germans and the French, American enterprise, whether it is undertaken in the name of democracy, will fail.

Motherhood blues

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"YOU don't become a mother just because you've given birth." Naomi Wolf, who has traced her own "post-feminist" personal journey through womanhood in three books, became a mother when she was 33. From that experience, and with some research, she has written "Misconceptions," a book that tackles head on the myths that surround motherhood, especially the "maternal instinct" that is supposed to kick in the moment a woman beholds her baby.

As she told the TV audience in the "Oprah" show, it's this assumption that every woman is automatically equipped with the skills, stamina and strength of spirit to cope with the challenges of motherhood that makes mothers having a tough time feeling inadequate and isolated.

"You feel so alone," said another guest, "20/20" correspondent Deborah Roberts, who at that time was on maternity leave. "Many women facing difficulties are afraid that they're the only one feeling this way," adds Roberts, who's married to "Today Show" weatherman Al Roker. "But I can tell them that you're not alone, and it WILL get better. We all just have to talk about it."

"The Myths of Motherhood" was how Oprah called her show, an attempt to get women to talk honestly, openly and unflinchingly about what some called "the dark side of motherhood."

"It doesn't come naturally," warned Wolf, with Oprah stressing that "mothers are made, not born." Bonding time with the newborn could take as long as a few days or even months. And for some women and their children, the bond may not emerge at all. What new mothers need before and soon after the birth of their children is honest talk about what to expect, and opportunities to prepare and practice for the daunting challenge of raising a child.

* * *

"YOU come home aching and woozy from the hospital, and when you reach home it hits you: You're responsible for the survival of another human being! It can get overwhelming," said Roberts.

Wolf notes that two weeks after the birth, the time when the husband usually goes back to full-time work and other family members, such as your mother, think you've had enough time to adjust, is exactly the time "when all the chemicals and your hormones kick in and leave you depressed and feeling vulnerable." This is the time when a woman most needs companionship and validation. What they're subjected to instead is loneliness and insecurity, especially in the face of the 24-hour onslaught of a screaming baby.

I remember some years back when I called the husband of a good friend to ask when I could visit my friend who'd just given birth. "Why not this weekend? She'll really enjoy your company," he said. "She says she's depressed, *uso daw yan ngayon* (it's supposed to be a fad)." If he wasn't nearly six feet tall, I would have cuffed him. It's not a fad! I wanted to shout at him. It's normal for a woman to get down with the blues after a delivery!

And while we're recounting husbandly misdemeanors, I remember, too what my husband told me early in our marriage while I was lying in bed, nauseous and mysteriously perpetually exhausted. "Will you get off your butt and walk around? You're so lazy!," he exclaimed, driving me to tears. Weeks later, we discovered that I was in fact pregnant. He hasn't stopped having to eat his words since then.

* * *

WHAT men and modern society often forget is that pregnancy and delivery triggers a complex brew of hormones, chemicals and chemical reactions that usher in a slew of conflicting emotions that can leave women fragile and sensitive. The smallest slight can trigger not just tears but depression and despair. And there is real pain, not just psychic, but actual physical pain, from the stitches of the episiotomies to hemorrhoids, from sore nipples to mastitis.

Then there's the sleeplessness. The hardest part about caring for my first-born, my son, was not going without sleep because of the nighttime feedings, it was going back to bed after having him quiet down, only to have to snap awake about 30 minutes later when he would start crying anew. By the time the sun shone, I was half-mad and woozy, nursing a migraine and dying to stay in bed all day. Then the hubby would shower, dress up and leave for work.

And I had a *yaya*, mind. During the same "Oprah" show, Wolf spoke enviously of how women in other cultures were treated after delivery. "You're left alone with nothing to do but fall in love with your baby and breastfeed. All the other women in the community, your relatives, your neighbors, come to your home and take over the cleaning, the washing and the cooking."

* * *

THE AMERICAN women in the audience were agape just contemplating the sheer luxury of the arrangement. But watching the show, I remembered how, even if my own mother dropped by regularly, Tiang Vi, my husband's aunt, would regularly volunteer for babysitting duties, and I had the help of a *yaya*, I still felt under tremendous pressure. Every cry, every instance of loose, watery stool, every fever, every rash, I would take as a personal rebuke, the comments of even well-meaning doctors and relatives indirect criticisms not just of my mothering skills, but of my character.

"What they don't tell you is that it sucks 80 percent of the time," said a woman in a documentary on the "dark side" of motherhood. On hindsight, with all the colic, the smell of baby vomit and the wet mattresses forgotten, I wouldn't issue such a sweeping indictment. All I can offer new mothers by way of consolation is that they're at least a decade away from their children's adolescence.

The world of the printed word

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

THERE is a notice that has been running in the INQUIRER for the past few days regarding e-mail transmision of press releases and assorted news items. When I saw this I felt like a dinosaur as I remembered, with fondness, my first job at the Philippines Daily Express in 1985. I had a computer at home, but at work we all had heavy manual typewriters that made a lot of noise. We typed our articles on continuous rolls of newsprint, actually the back of the sheets that carried the news from the wire services. Our editors literally cut and paste (actually, we used staplers or scotch tape) these drafts before handing them over to the typesetting department. The Express was the first paper to use computers, I think, but I never touched the machines that were exclusively used for final editing, typesetting and page design. Typewriter noise encouraged us to write and I would often race against the deadline with Ricky Lo. Newsrooms today are so quiet compared to those before the age of computers.

When I moved to the Daily Globe in 1989 we saw the transition from manual typewriters to computers. Older journalists stubbornly refused to use the computers and stuck to typewriters, while the younger ones stayed on the opposite end of the newsroom with their computers. Those days my columns were hand-carried to my editor either in hard copy or in diskette. This may have been a hassle but it gave me face-to-face contact with my editors and other writers. When I moved to the INQUIRER in 1992 columns were sent by fax and now we use e-mail. As I was preparing for a short talk on the late Renato D. "Katoks" Tayag I was amused to read about his first published short story. In an interview a month before he died in 1985 he recounted:

"I'd been writing stories since the summer vacation after my first year, I don't know how many stories I had sent, and all of them were rejected—at least 10, anyway. I was down-hearted. I used to walk one kilometer to my uncle's house [he] was the Justice of the Peace of Angeles. He had a typewriter, an Underwood. In exchange for allowing me to use his typewriter, I would correct his decisions. He was Spanish-speaking, but he forced himself to write his decisions in English, and I corrected them—of course my corrections were probably incorrect too, but they were better than his, at least.

"And then one day, in high school, Juan S. Aguas taught our class for about two weeks because our teacher was sick. He told us about the UP, about his classmates in the short story writing class—Jose Garcia Villa and others. And he told us how difficult it was to break into a national publication. Then one Sunday my story came out—"Interlude"—and in class, he told us about it, and was very proud because it was difficult to break into a national publication. I was surprised as everybody else because I did not get an acceptance slip. He said, 'How much were you paid for your short story?' I said, 'I don't know; I didn't get an acceptance slip. I just saw the story in the Sunday Tribune Magazine'...Mr. Aguas told me, 'You are supposed to get paid for that.' 'What shall I do sir?' I asked him. 'You go to the Tribune and ask for your payment.' I went; I met [Dave] Boguslav; I told him I was the author of the story. He said, 'Ah, that is right.' He remembered, he signed something, and said 'You present this to the cashier,' and then they paid me P10."

Of course, nobody pays P10 for an article today, but I wonder if high school students these days even attempt to get published in the INQUIRER Youngblood column. Life seemed so simple before the War, in the days old people refer to as "Peace-time." Even Tayag's memory of black and white silent movies seems so far removed from our own experience with colored films, THX or Dolby sound. Tayag knew how to play the piano and was asked to accompany a silent picture:

"What really happened was that I knew about two pieces, Barcarolle, and Longing for Home, and slow pieces. My piano teacher said I could—I was a small boy—play piano in the movie house. He had the contract to play; he was the regular piano player, and we called him maestro, Antonio Dizon—Tatang Tonyong. He took me there and saw that the hero and the heroine were walking by the riverbank, a romantic scene. He said, 'You play your piece; I'll just go out for a while, I'll come back for you.' I was playing Barcarolle very low, and then suddenly the scene changed—the villain, with a group of outlaws, abducted the girl. The hero called for help. They got on their horses and went galloping after the bad guys—I was still playing Barcarolle, and the audience was shouting. The manager came. 'Where's the maestro?' he said. He was drinking San Miguel gin. He came back, took my place, and played the William Tell Overture..."

Tayag donated a plot of land for the Angeles City Library years ago and this morning they will open a Tayag Reading Room that will hopefully encourage other young people to read and enter the world of the printed word. One could say that Tayag remains alive as long as his books are available and read. He wrote about his life and surroundings not knowing that in the future his texts would be read as social history, a record of his times. When future readers of the archived INQUIRER think e-mail is antiquated, what will they make of manual typewriters or writing long hand?

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The cost of legalizing street vendors

COMMENTARY

Jerry Domingo Apolonio
Institute on Church and Social Issues

VENDORS on the streets and sidewalks have been forcibly evicted or given eviction notices since they are considered illegal in policies made by the government. Bayani Fernando cited a Supreme Court decision stating that the streets should be free from commercial activities and another requiring permits to be issued by the LGU for use of public properties. Even the policy instrument being cited by some pro-vendors advocates, EO 452 issued during the Ramos administration, is limited to those who are "registered."

Given the present structural setup, the only way for the street vendors to gain security in their work is to legalize themselves. One major means to achieve this is for them to rent or buy a space in the public market or any other public space designated for commercial purposes. But is it possible for them to access such facilities? Apparently not. High rental fees and the added cost of bureaucratic formalities implemented by government agencies at present prevent the poor from gaining access to market facilities deemed legal.

A comparison of prevailing rental rates across three cities—Marikina, Quezon City and Manila—shows that the range of rental fees for stalls in public markets go from P400 to P1,080 for dry merchandise and from P600 to P2,790 for wet goods per month. This amount will depend on the location or classification of stalls—those in front and more accessible to buyers are generally more expensive than those located in the inner part of the public market and less frequently visited by buyers. In Manila, areas of the public market are even divided into three classifications: Class A, B and C, with Class A having good location and bigger space and C located in the inner part and significantly smaller in size. Class A stalls are naturally priced higher than Class C stalls.

Based on the focused-group discussions we had with vendors, their income ranges from a low of less than P100 to a high of P200 a day. Although at first this amount seems good enough, once we realize that it does not follow that they get this much every day—there are days when they get the high end of the range and at times no income at all—then we realize how erratic their financial status is. Furthermore, whatever they earn for the day goes to their meals, transportation needs, household expenses, allowance for the children who go to school—all of these are naturally prioritized over renting space from which to sell.

But even prior to worrying about the monthly rental fee, the poor vendor will have to agonize about the advance payment of three months rent in some cases, or the payment of what is called "goodwill fee" of P20,000 non-refundable in other cases. And there are voluminous documentary requirements and forms that they have to pay for and accomplish before being considered for the stall rental.

Finally, in a more qualitative sense, the poor have to deal with the discrimination of market administration staff who favor the rich vendors over the poor vendors. We cannot deny the fact that most of these employees become intimidated by the rich and educated while they look with condescension on the poor. Or worse, on the business side of it, the rich who are able to pay all the financial requirements are given priority over the poor who are viewed as problems when it is time to collect payments for stall rental.

The ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work specifically reiterates the elimination of discrimination with respect to employment and occupation. It also includes the right to employment and the right to just and favorable working conditions, specifically the provision of social protection. This international instrument does not differentiate between formal and informal sectors (street vendors are classified under the latter). The Philippines has ratified all the pertinent international instruments related to the right to work and rights at work. Yet clearly, in the discussions presented above, the prevailing system in the country shows some level of discrimination against the street vendors, and by extension, some level of violation of their rights.

The Philippine Constitution, Article XIII Sec. 3, guarantees the entitlement of all workers (organized and unorganized) to security of tenure and humane conditions among others. Republic Act No. 8425, or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act recognized the informal sector as part of the working class as well as of the marginalized segment of our society. Yet, there seems to be little if any initiative to put into motion programs that would ensure their rights, give them social security and assist them to alleviate their worsening economic situation. Instead, with the way things are going, they are left out and further subjected to abuse which will push them further down the social strata (if that is possible at all). Furthermore, despite the policy instruments both international and national, the government continues to formulate and implement policies to the detriment of the street vendors as we have seen in the debate between Fernando and the street vendors of Metro Manila.

Are the street vendors illegal? Yes. Is there a need to get them out of the streets? Yes. Is forced eviction the answer to this? Definitely not. They need to be relocated to alternative commercial areas and the manner by which this should be accomplished requires a level of sensitivity to what limited resources they have. Simply evicting them is denying them the right to earn a living. Denying them the right to earn a living is denying them the right to live.

One doesn't even need to dwell on the more technical side of the issue to see that there is something wrong in the way government has been dealing with the problem of the street vendors. One just needs to delve into one's own conscience and the ideals of being humane to see that these vendors have been treated unjustly. And as a predominantly Catholic country, there is the real need to internalize the appeal of the Pope for preferential option for the poor and translate it in this case to preferential option for the marginalized street vendors.

THEY SAID

Perfect it

"If there's such a thing, we should perfect it."

—Sen. Juan Flavier on the 'tried and tested formula' that was used in dealing with kidnappers of Rep. Jules Ledesma's children

Confident and sure

"A lot of people may call me a fool. Others may doubt my person but I can stand by my record."

—Philippine Estates Authority director Sulficio Tagud Jr., the whistle-blower in the allegedly overpriced road work

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Fears about AFTA

THE PRONOUNCEMENT of Trade Secretary Mar Roxas that government would fully implement by January 2003 its Afta commitments in placing 0-5 percent tariffs on almost all imported products is a grave manifestation of an anti-worker stance.

For the past months, labor groups have been holding different forms of mass action and dialogues with the trade secretary to consider their petition that government delay its Afta commitment implementation until the local industries would be already capable of competing with imported products.

The idea of a free trade area between member nations of the Association of South East Asian Nations is to spur growth in terms of trade relations and relative increase in market shares between Asean neighbors. However, all of these must be in the context of an improved competitiveness between local industries producing and exporting the same kind of goods either semi-processed and/or finished products.

Thus, from 1993, Asean members set a period where tariffs of certain products would be cut down to 0-5 percent. Initially, it was set for 2008. Unfortunately, the Asean members cut it into 10 years from 2008 to January 2003.

However, the Philippine government made two grave mistakes. First, it did not lay down a viable economic program to enhance the competitiveness of local industries. What the government should have done is ease pressure on local borrowings and give incentives to local manufacturers just like the tax holidays it is giving to foreign capitalists. More than this, the government should have spearheaded the setting up of basic industries such as steel, chemical and power industries instead of relying heavily on foreign loans and capital that only forces us to swallow its bitter pills resulting in economic and fiscal dislocations. Equally important would be the curbing of corruption in the bureaucracy that has shunned away investors for doing business in the country.

Second, it acceded in cutting down tariffs much faster than our neighboring countries, thus, our local market was flooded with imported products sold at a much lower price than locally produced products. This was the reason why local industries were not able to develop and become competitive because its local products are not selling in the local market. The Philippines had earlier reduced tariff lines to more than 850 imported products, from popcorn and matches to swine and corn that are also being produced locally in compliance with the Common Effective Preferential Tariff Scheme of Afta.

Now, the Macapagal government, through its trade secretary has openly announced that it would not delay full implementation of Afta commitments in January 2003.

—Josua T. Mata,
secretary general,
Alliance of Progressive Labor,
102 Sct. De Guia St.,
Bgy. Sacred Heart,
Quezon City

Unfair condemnation of an entire industry

PLEASE allow me to react to the views of Mr. Isagani A. Cruz in his column entitled "Poe-Sotto for 2004" (PDI, 10/6/02), if only to set the facts straight.

First, Mr. Fernando Poe Jr. has not yet decided to run in the 2004 presidential race. Nobody, friend or foe, is going to convince him to do what he does not want to do. As they say, you may bring a horse to the river, but only the horse can drink. Our presidential electoral history is littered with the names of ordinary people who dreamed of presenting themselves to the people and we didn't have to insult them or their profession. Mr. Poe's heart is honest, his hands clean of public funds, his pockets unfilled by overpriced government contracts, his conscience unblemished by the sale of an executive or judicial decision. In his field, he fought the established studio system and succeeded. If he runs, Ms Susan Roces would be a fitting First Lady. Isn't disinterest the first qualification for public office? Mr. Cruz need not be afraid.

Second, the proposal for Mr. Fernando Poe Jr. as candidate for president does not necessarily include myself as his vice presidential running mate. The logic of our politics makes this eventuality remote. In the 1998 elections, although we were both leading in all poll surveys, President Estrada and I agreed not to run for president and vice president, respectively, being from the same industry. Mr. Cruz did not consider the evidence and precedence.

Third, my impression of Mr. Cruz as senator is confined to a non-related news item of an incident involving my entry into a private subdivision. I do not have a public relations group to write about my accomplishments in the Senate. My election as the Senate Minority Floor Leader speaks for itself, the Opposition counting among its members legal luminaries who are known to Mr. Cruz. Apparently, Mr. Cruz did not read the Senate records before judging my performance.

Mr. Cruz has practically condemned as a whole the members of the entertainment industry who seek to serve in the government. In our democracy and legal system, I think public service is everybody's calling. It was not reserved for the *ilustrados* of old or the elite of today. The *ilustrados* opted to remain a province of Spain, the *masa* chose revolution. I am told that during the dark years of the Japanese Occupation, certain legal luminaries and elites happily served under the Japanese, while the *masa* fought the guerrilla war, including entertainment personalities who kept the hopes of freedom and resistance alive with their double meaning songs and theater skits against the Japanese. Weren't the *masa* intelligent when they rallied for Cory Aquino in 1986 and voted closely for Fidel Ramos and Miriam Defensor-Santiago in 1992? Have they all become unfit to elect their president for voting for President Estrada in 1998 and possibly for Mr. Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004? Is love of country a monopoly of the rich and highly educated? Isn't the Latin legal *maxim vox populi, vox dei* still true? Aren't we being unjust to the *masa*?

—VICENTE C. SOTTO III,
Senate, Manila

A stupid thing happened at the US Embassy

THE MOST stupid thing was experienced by my father recently at the US Embassy. My father has been trying to get a US visa because his parents are US citizens. The first time was late last year and he did not get it because they asked him to present a document which was not listed in their list of requirements. My grandparents were very ill then, my grandmother had cancer and it was terminal. My grandfather suffered from Parkinson's disease. We consoled my father about his visa denial and hoped he would have better luck next time.

In February, a tragic event happened to our family when my grandmother died of cancer. My uncles asked my dad to attend the cremation in the United States, so with all the documents needed together with the certification from the American doctor that my grandmother had died and a letter of request from the Congressman of San Jose, California, my dad applied for an emergency US visa. Again it was denied, but his sister was given a special visa for the funeral. Why? They even presented the same documents. The American officials were looking for the death certificate because only a certification from the doctor about my grandma's death was presented. Official death certificates are issued 15 days after a person died. Didn't the US Embassy know their own laws? Imagine my dad's frustration in not being able to pay his last respect to his mom. We let it pass, the cremation went on without him. He was the only one (the eldest) among the nine children who was not present.

Seven months later, my grandfather, a retired US veteran, died due to massive cardiac arrest. He will be given military rites before he is cremated. Again my father, being the eldest of the children, will be the recipient of the US flag. He was given an invitation to attend the funeral rites. My father was scheduled for an interview on Sept. 27. The documents were complete, even the death certificate was presented, so he was scheduled for an interview at 7:30 a.m. that day. After they screened his papers they called him for an interview. The American consul after the interview got his passport and told him to come back at 3:00 p.m. to get his visa.

So after lunch, my dad and some relatives headed for the US Embassy to get his visa. He noticed that it was nearing 4:30 already and they hadn't called his name yet. He waited patiently until finally his name was called and he was told that the consul who earlier interviewed him made a mistake, so the visa could not be issued. My father was still asking for an explanation but the American guy could not give an answer, so he just turned his back and closed the blinds. My father was devastated.

My father does not deserve this kind of treatment from these people. I grew up with a high regard for Americans and their country. But not with the kind they have at the US Embassy.

—ARLYN PENGOSRO,
IC-111 Betag,
La Trinidad,
Benguet Province
2601

If your body can't go on a vacation, let your mind take the trip.
TRAVEL
Sundays
Discover locales, traditions and culture from over 200 countries around the world.
And count yourself among the millions who learn about all things exotic in the PDI.
INQUIRER

No 'accounting sleight of hand' in SSS Annual Report

ALLOW me to respond to the news article titled "Group accuses SSS of violating accounting rules." (PDI, 9/18/02) It is unfortunate that the group aired its concerns to the press before the matter was thoroughly discussed with us. Then, they would have avoided giving the wrong impression to the public and being grossly unfair to the Social Security System (SSS).

There are no misstatements in the 2001 audited Annual Report. It is not true that the SSS "understated its expenses and overstated its profits in 2001 to avoid exceeding the statutory limits on administrative and operational expenses pegged at 12 percent of total contributions and 3 percent of other revenues." To liken the SSS audited 2001 financial report to the Enron and Worldcom scandals is totally inappropriate.

The fact is that the SSS deducted the provisions for probable losses from the investment income with respect to the current investment portfolio (trading portfolio), and from the investment reserve account, with respect to the non-current marketable securities (investment portfolio). The latter treatment is in accordance with section 22 of the Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 10 issued by the Accounting Standards Council (ASC). There is no violation of the SSS Charter. While the SSS Charter did not explicitly allow the deduction of the provision for probable losses related to investments from the investment income account, such provisions were also not included in the examples of general and administrative expenses defined in Section 25 of the SSS law.

The 2001 Audited Financial Statements were fairly presented in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. In the interest of greater transparency, the SSS Reserve Fund is presented net of unrealized loss on non-current marketable securities in the 2001 Annual Report, again in accordance with section 22 of the SFAS No. 10. This explains the substantial decline of P9.4 billion in the balance of the Reserve account in 2001 compared to 2000 despite a 2001 net revenue of P2.148. This decline is reflected in the total assets that went down from P181.7 billion in yearend 2000 to P164.4 billion at yearend 2001. In the case of the investments in Equitable PCIBank and Union Bank, the equity method of accounting for investments in common stocks was used.

There is no understatement in our expenses, deliberate or otherwise, in both the 2000 and 2001 financial reports. We did not exceed the budget limit for year 2000 and except for depreciation and maintenance of IT resources, expenses incurred in 2001 were within the approved budget.

I assure you, there is no so-called "accounting sleight of hand" nor would I allow such kind of reporting. I am keenly aware of our responsibility to let the public know the true state of affairs at the SSS, including its difficult financial position. I have been speaking to our various stakeholders since I assumed office last year in an attempt to help them understand the SSS' financial situation. It has not been easy; nevertheless, my commitment to forcefully present the case for the SSS has never wavered, and truth and fairness in financial reporting continue to be enshrined in our operating policies.

—CORAZON S. DELA PAZ,
president and CEO,
Social Security System,
East Avenue Diliman,
Quezon City

PAL is not coddled

THIS refers to the column of Ms Belinda Olivares Cunanan last Oct. 5, where she wrote: "Leaving PAL in Naia II is certainly a concession to Lucio Tan...Tan is being coddled by the government and to think that, according to reports, PAL, which has exclusive use of NAIA II, has not even begun to pay a single centavo for its use after all these years."

For the record, Philippine Airlines pays a total of P9,600,500 every month in rental for its use of various spaces at Centennial Terminal 2 since it opened in August 1999. It is current in its rental payments. You can verify all these from the records of the Manila International Airport Authority.

We deny the charge that PAL has exclusive right to Terminal 2. The facility has been available to other carriers since it opened in 1999. Only PAL took up the government's offer to locate there.

PAL moved to Terminal 2 for the seamless connections it offered to passengers between their domestic and international flights. Operating in one terminal only assures this convenience. They used to suffer having to transfer from one terminal to another due to traffic congestion, unscrupulous taxi drivers and missed connections.

As for the allegation that our chair, Mr. Tan and PAL, are being "coddled" by the government, consider how states all over the world reacted vis-à-vis their flag carriers in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy:

- The United States government allocated $15 billion in financial assistance to keep its airlines in business and $3-billion to help cover the costs of tighter aviation security;
- Canada granted $105 million in emergency funding to Air Canada. Germany approved a $164-million compensation to Lufthansa. France committed about $280 million in emergency funds for French carriers. Korea gave subsidies and tax cuts, as well as access to special foreign loan programs, to its airlines.
- New Zealand injected $360 million to keep Air New Zealand flying under state control, following the pre-Sept. 11 lead of Malaysia, which engineered a government takeover of Malaysia Airlines.

In stark contrast, PAL did not receive a single centavo in subsidy from the Philippine government, despite having been among the hardest hit airlines following Sept. 11 resulting in a P1.6-billion loss for the entire fiscal year.

This situation can hardly be described as being "coddled" by the government. In many instances, during aviation negotiations with foreign governments, our national authorities did not endorse PAL's position—again, belying the notion that the flag carrier is coddled. On the other hand, our foreign counterparts, it must be noted, received preferential treatment from their negotiating panel.

—(Sgd) AVELINO L. ZAPANTA,
president and COO,
Philippine Airlines

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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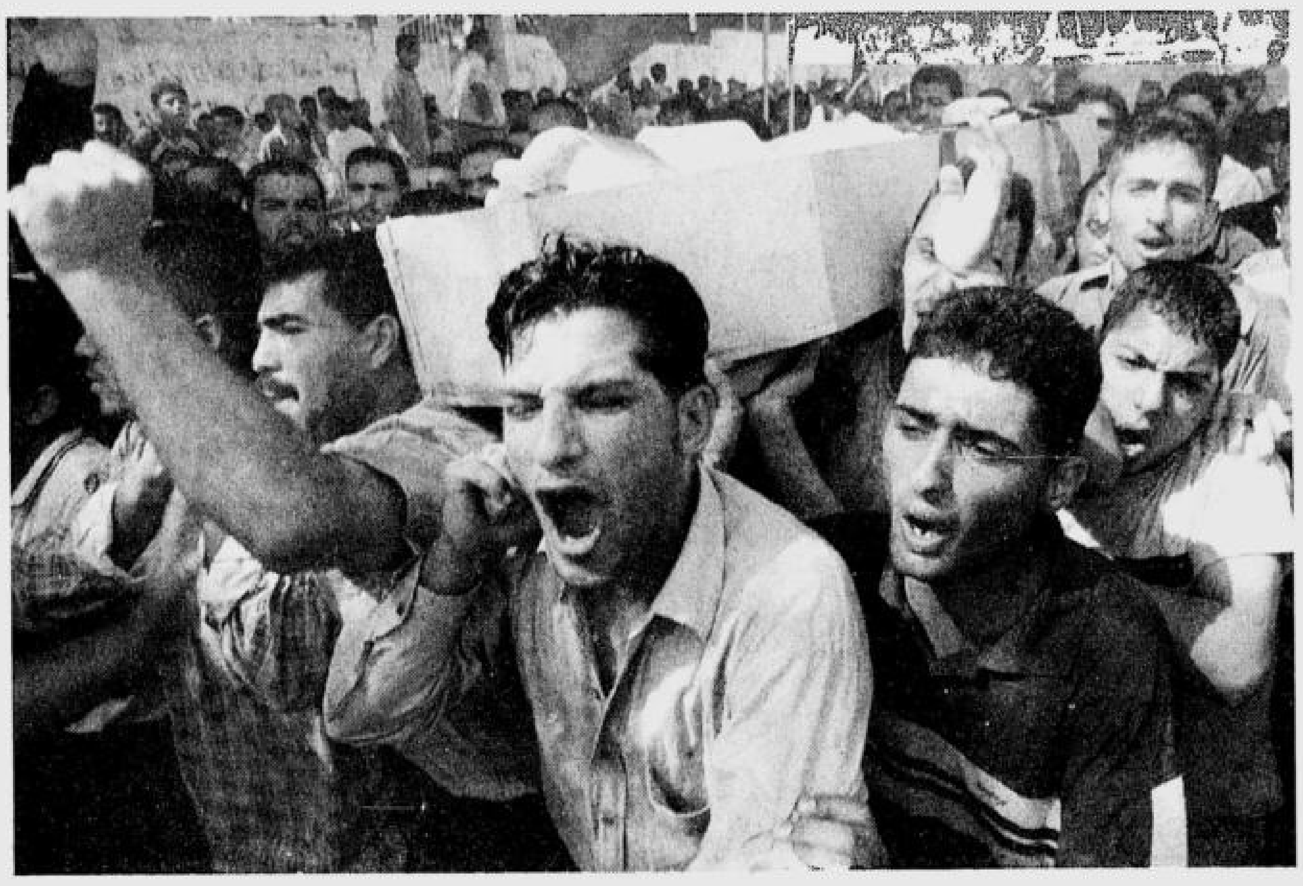
The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco



FURIOUS relatives carry the body of one of the victims of the Israeli strike on Khan Younis refugee camp in the southern Gaza strip Oct. 7. Israeli forces killed 14 Palestinians in a raid in the Gaza Strip on Monday, including 10 who died when a helicopter missile slammed into a crowd, dealing a blow to new peace efforts. REUTERS

Israelis brace for reprisal after attack which killed 14

JERUSALEM—Israeli residents were bracing themselves Tuesday after Islamic militant groups vowed to exact revenge for the deaths of 14 Palestinians during a major army incursion into the Gaza Strip.

Amid international condemnation of the overnight raid on the Palestinian autonomous Gaza town of Khan Yunes, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stood defiant, describing the action as "vital." Israel tanks backed by helicopters killed 14 Palestinians in the raid and injured scores more, while deadly street battles broke out between the group and Palestinian police following the slaying of a top commander.

While expressing his "regrets over the loss of civilian life" Sharon said that Israel "must assure the security of its inhabitants" and that the military strike "was vital to prevent terrorist attacks launched from this area," Israeli public radio reported Monday.

According to Israeli military sources, six of the 14 Palestinians killed were "armed terrorist activists linked with anti-Israeli attacks." However, military radio reported that the armed Palestinians killed were not "important activists" and that none of them were members of Hamas, the main Islamist movement.

Sharon made his comments during a meeting with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana, who is on a tour of the region and later met with Yasser Arafat in the Palestinian leader's devastated headquarters in the West Bank.

Despite all diplomatic efforts, the cycle of violence looked set to continue as around 15,000 Palestinians turned out in Gaza on Monday to bury 12 of the victims of the Israeli raid.

In a mass of flags, around 300 gunmen loosed off their weapons, while a member of the radical Islamic group Hamas swore violent revenge against Israel and Sharon, witnesses said.

"Sharon, prepare the body bags for your soldiers and settlers. Hamas' revenge will be very tough, as ever," the man shouted over a loudspeaker.

A host of militant groups added their voices to the calls for revenge, including two offshoots of Arafat's Fatah movement, the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Abu Rish group, as well as the armed wings of Hamas and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

The Khan Yunes attack drew a swift rebuke of Israel from the United States amid its attempts to calm the region ahead of any military action against Iraq, and further hampered efforts by Solana to ease the two-year conflict in meetings with leaders from both sides.

Solana declared himself "shocked" by the deadly Israeli raid.

Israeli forays have increased into Gaza since Sharon secured almost total control of the West Bank, invaded in June after a spate of suicide bombings. *AFP*

NOBEL FOR MEDICINE
H. Robert Horvitz smiles after winning the Nobel prize for medicine, in Brison Saint Innocent, southeastern France, Oct. 7. Horvitz shared the Nobel prize for medicine, worth about $1 million, with Britons Sydney Brenner, 75, and John E. Sulston, 60. Working with tiny worms, the laureates identified key genes regulating organ development and programmed cell death, a necessary process for pruning excess cells. AP

Nokor amenable to South's proposal for military talks

SEOUL—North Korea has reacted positively towards South Korea's proposal for high-level military talks on reducing tensions on the world's last Cold War frontier, officials said Tuesday.

However, no formal response to the South's request has been made, amid signs that the Stalinist country appeared split over how to handle the touchy issue, military officials here said.

Seoul's offer of talks between South and North Korean defense ministers was delivered Sept. 17 at inter-Korean military talks on how to open railway and road links across the heavily-fortified border.

The two sides have since maintained a regular channel of military dialogue to monitor a historic de-mining operation needed to open such links in the demilitarized zone (DMZ).

The North had been silent over the proposed high-level military dialogue, but in talks last Thursday, North Korean delegates said they were ready to discuss the issue, the South's defense ministry said.

"North Korea sent positive signals over our proposal but it requires tough talks between the sides and first of all approval from the North's leadership," a ministry official said.

"For their part, it is not an easy subject," he said, referring to the first meeting of defense ministers, which followed a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000 but faltered because of wide differences over how to reduce tensions.

Seoul has pushed for the high-level military meeting to discuss real steps on easing tensions, such as a reduction in their military concentration along the DMZ.

The two Koreas are still technically at war, with the buffer zone heavily fortified and guarded by more than one million soldiers on each side since the 1950-53 Korean War.

The United States, which keeps some 37,000 troops in South Korea, has urged North Korea to trim its conventional forces—especially along the DMZ.

On Monday, Japan's Kyodo News Agency quoted Russian government sources as saying Pyongyang unofficially informed Moscow in September of its plan to consider cutting back its forces by up to 50,000.

Although trimming 50,000 from its 1.2 million-strong armed forces is relatively insignificant, North Korea may insist the United States reduce its forces in South Korea in return, Kyodo suggested.

South Korean officials, however, said there have been no indications that North Korea was curtailing its forces.

"If true, the move could be significant but we have not detected any signs of North Korea's troop reduction in the DMZ," a defense ministry spokesperson said. *AFP*

Blazing supertanker being towed out to Arabian Sea

AL-MUKALLA, Yemen—A stricken French supertanker leaking crude and still ablaze was being towed out into the Arabian Sea on Monday, a day after explosions left a gaping hole in the vessel.

The damaged metal around the breach—big enough for a man to pass through—appeared to have been blown out rather than in, an AFP correspondent reported from the side of the ship.

The French embassy in Sanaa said Sunday the damage was caused by a small boat packed with explosives that rammed the tanker, but the French foreign ministry later said there was no evidence so far of an attack and Yemen believes it was an accident.

Flames could be seen still burning inside the 330-meter long vessel Monday as journalists sailed within a few meters of the port side.

Hadramaut provincial governor Abdul Khader Hilal told reporters that the fire was "brought under control overnight," while the ship's owners said in a statement from France that the blaze would soon be put out.

A Canadian oil company's tug was towing the Limburg loaded with 400,000 barrels of crude out to sea after oil slicks were spotted off southeastern Yemen.

After flying over the area off Al-Mukalla during the morning, a Yemeni expert said "several slicks can be seen," and local specialists later set to sea aboard speedboats for "a first evaluation." An official at the governorate said the tanker was struck by two explosions after the initial blast.

"Nearly 45 minutes later, a second explosion took place inside the ship and an hour later a third, stronger explosion which started an enormous fire," said the official under cover of anonymity.

Winds had since been pushing the tanker towards Al-Mukalla.

"The tanker has moved several kilometers to the west, towards Al-Mukalla," the source at the Hadramaut governorate said before the tugs moved in.

Yemeni authorities set up a crisis cell and put Transport and Maritime Affairs Minister Saed Yafhi in charge.

The cell was instructed "to take the necessary measures to bring the fire under control on board the tanker and to fight maritime pollution," a government spokesperson said.

Owned by France's Euronav, it had been chartered to Malaysia's national oil firm Petronas, that company said in Kuala Lumpur.

The vessel was loaded with Arab Heavy crude oil from Saudi Arabia and was on its way to load another 1.5 million barrels of crude in Yemen when the incident occurred, Petronas said.

The Limburg had a crew of 25, comprising eight French nationals and 17 Bulgarians. One Bulgarian was still missing on Monday, but the rest of the crew was accounted for. *AFP*

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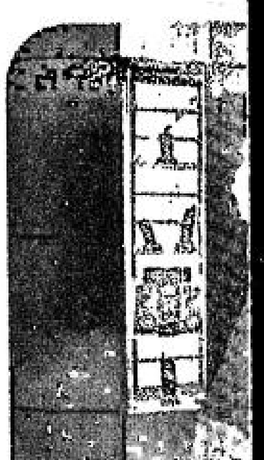

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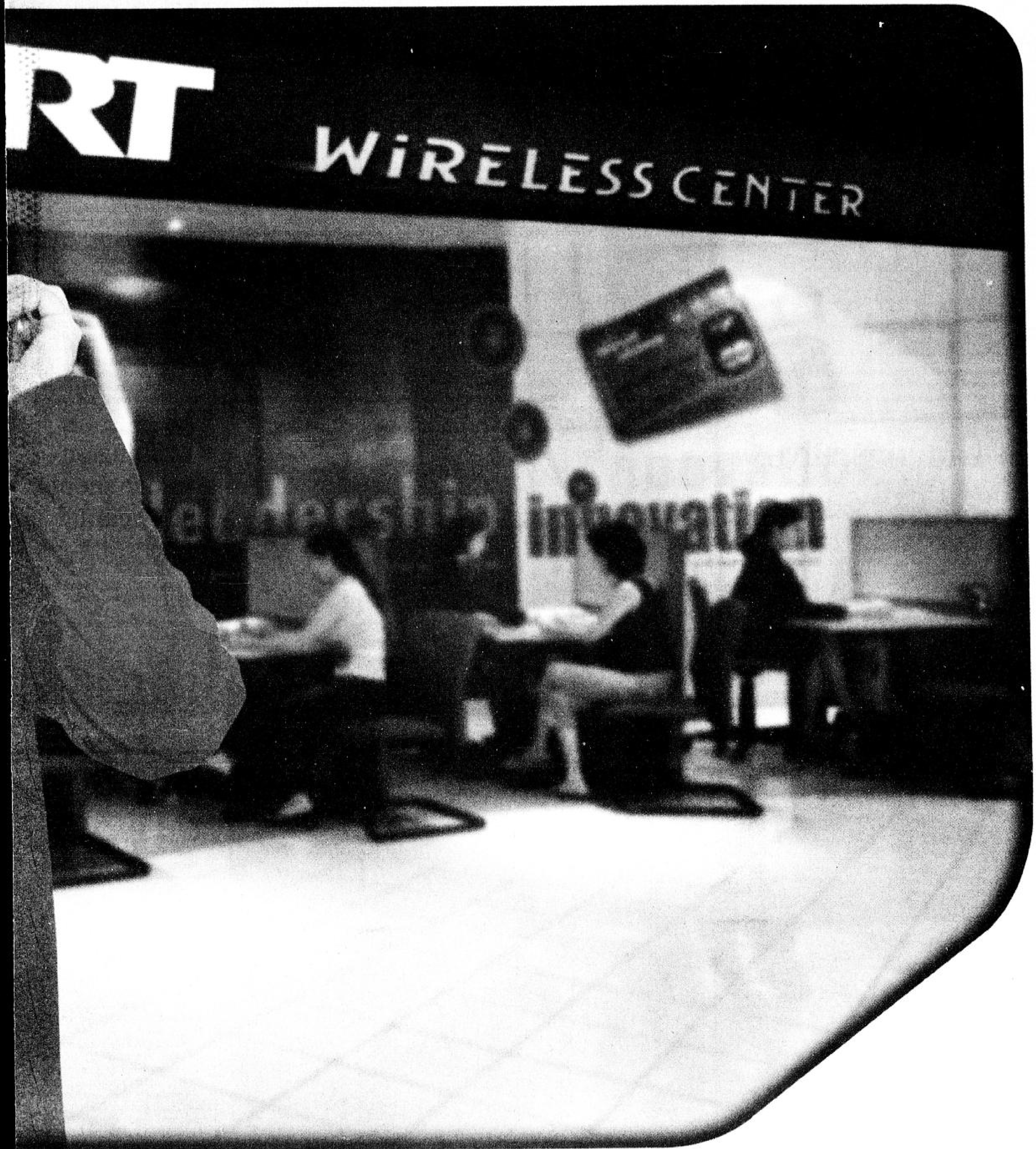

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Bush tells Saddam: Destroy arms or face war

AN IRAQI woman holds a Kalashnikov rifle during a demonstration in support of President Saddam Hussein in northern Baghdad Oct. 07. France and Britain worked Monday to narrow a gap in the UN Security Council over a planned resolution on disarming Iraq, as US President George W. Bush took his case for war to the US public. AFP

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Insisting war is neither imminent nor unavoidable, Bush laid out what Iraq must do: declare and destroy all of its weapons of mass destruction, end support for terrorism, cease persecuting civilians and stop all efforts to skirt UN economic sanctions.

The president also called on Iraq to account for all Gulf War soldiers, including a US pilot, who are still missing, and said Iraqi generals could be judged as war criminals if they followed Saddam's orders.

"By taking these steps and only by taking these steps, the Iraqi regime has an opportunity to avoid conflict." Bush also for the first time demanded the right for inspectors to interview witnesses to Iraq's weapons programs.

"To ensure that we learn the truth, the regime must allow witnesses to its illegal activities to be interviewed outside the country," Bush said. "And these witnesses must be free to bring their families with them, so they are all beyond the reach of Saddam Hussein's terror and murder."

Wooing US lawmakers wary of signing on to a resolution giving him far-reaching authority to wage war on Iraq, Bush said approving the measure "does not mean that military action is imminent or unavoidable.

"The resolution will tell the United Nations, and all nations, that America speaks with one voice and it is determined to make the demands of the civilized world mean something," he said. *AFP*

Bin Laden is alive, bugged call suggests

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Osama bin Laden is alive, traveling with his lieutenant, Egyptian Ayman Al Zawahri, living in Afghanistan and plotting more attacks, according to a satellite telephone conversation reportedly intercepted over the weekend by US and Afghan intelligence.

In the intercepted conversation, the Taliban's fugitive one-eyed leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar allegedly told his former deputy prime minister Maulvi Abdul Kabir that bin Laden and Al Zawahri have lots of money and that something will happen to change the scenario in Afghanistan in the next 45 days.

"We are in receipt of financial aid. Our benefactors have been approached and are supplying us with money," Omar told Kabir, without explaining the origin of the money.

He also told Kabir that "the situation in Afghanistan shall not remain the same. It shall see a change very soon." He warned Kabir against making any public statements for at least another 45 days, but did not say why.

The text of the conversation was given to The Associated Press by an Afghan intelligence official who had previously been with the Taliban administration and said he would readily recognize both Omar's and Kabir's voices.

News of the conversation comes after the Arab Satellite station Al Jazeera released an audiotape said to be from Bin Laden in which a male voice warns that the "youths of God" are planning more attacks against the United States.

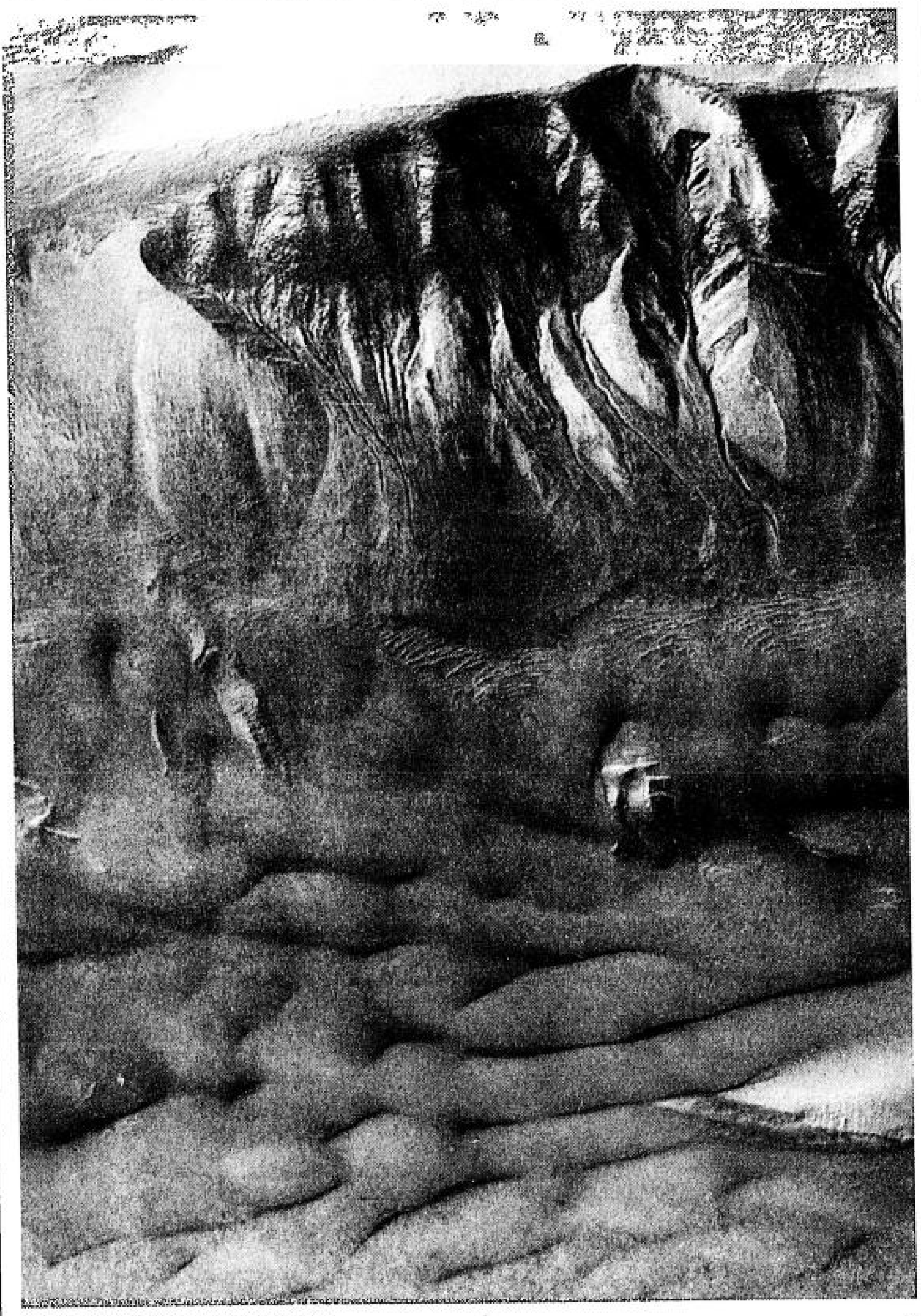
Al-Jazeera, which broadcast the tape Sunday, said the voice was Bin Laden's, but there was no way to verify that claim, or when the recording was made.

"By God, the youths of God are preparing for you things that would fill your hearts with terror and target your economic lifeline until you stop your oppression and aggression" against Muslims, the voice said.

US officials have said they don't know whether Bin Laden, whose al-Qaida terror group is thought to have carried out the Sept. 11 attacks, is still alive. The US State Department had no immediate reaction to the tape.

Al-Jazeera chief editor Ibrahim Helal told The Associated Press by telephone that the station received the tape two hours before the Sunday evening broadcast. He refused to say how the tape was received.

"We had no doubt this was Bin Laden. It was not only the tone of the voice but also the way he spoke and the logic of the message," Helal said. *AP*



RED PLANET LANDSCAPE

AP

This undated handout photo, one of the highest-resolution images ever obtained by NASA's Mars Global Surveyor, shows a view of gullies on the walls of a meteor impact crater in the Newton Basin, in Sirenum Terra, Mars. The photo is among a group of 18,812 images being added to the Mars Global Surveyor online image gallery, Oct. 7, 2002.

Washington sniper shoots 8th victim

WASHINGTON—Area police were in a frenzy Monday after investigators linked the shooting of a 13 year-old boy to seven sniper attacks over the past days.

Schools in the greater Washington DC metropolitan area went into a high-security "lock-down" situation after police announced that the teenager was shot just after he had been dropped off at school in the town of Bowie, Maryland, just northeast of Washington.

"This community is in a state of fear, of anxiety," said Douglas Duncan, Montgomery County executive, summarizing the feeling for many of the nearly four million residents of the greater Washington metropolitan area.

Five people were randomly shot to death within a radius of a few kilometers over 16 hours Wednesday and Thursday in Montgomery County, an affluent suburb north of the US capital.

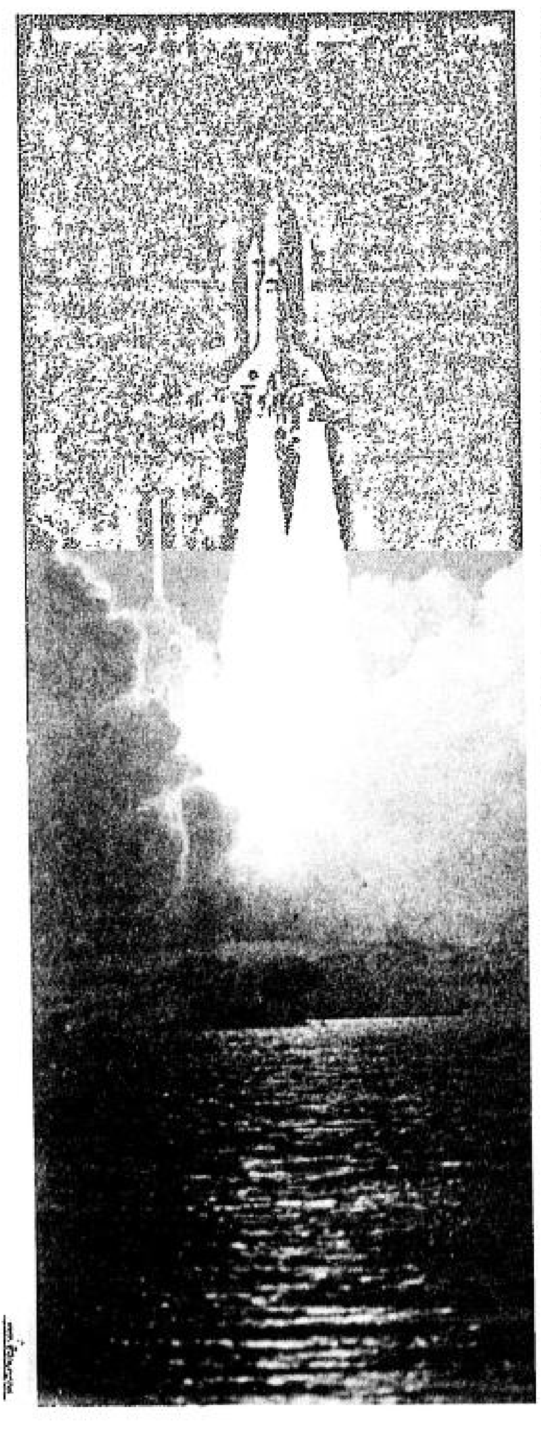
A sixth victim was shot in the chest late Thursday while standing on a street corner in Washington, close to the Maryland state border.

On Friday a woman was shot in the back in the parking lot of a shopping mall in Fredericksburg, Virginia, some 80 km south of Washington. She was hospitalized and reported in fair condition on Monday.

Police believe the same shooter, described as a marksman using a high-power hunting or military rifle, is behind the random killings.

The Bowie teen received "a significant gunshot wound to his abdomen and chest," Martin Eichelberger, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital in Washington, told reporters.

The bullet injured the boy's spleen, stomach and lung, Eichelberger said, adding that he was in critical but stable condition. *AFP*



ATLANTIS BLASTS OFF

The US space shuttle Atlantis blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center Monday in a flawless start of an 11-day mission to the International Space Station, the first since the US shuttle fleet was grounded by cracks in its propulsion system.

The shuttle carrying six astronauts, took off at 3:46 p.m. and eight minutes later reached orbit at an altitude of 226 km. The launch had been delayed by Hurricane Lili, which swept across the US Gulf of Mexico coast last week.

"It was an absolute extraordinary clean launch," NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe said.

"And it was a big deal for NASA, given the fact that it's been so many months since our last launch in June."

O'Keefe said the success of the launch was due to "attention to details and the focus on safety."

AFP

Ivory Coast rebels ready counteroffensive

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast—Ivory Coast rebel fighters on Tuesday were preparing for a counteroffensive after forcing loyalist forces to retreat from the central insurgent stronghold of Bouake town following heavy fighting.

The army troops retreated late afternoon to the outskirts of the city, the second biggest in the west African nation and home to a million people. However loyalist forces said they would return Tuesday to take the city.

The army launched its two-pronged attack on Bouake—from the north and the southeast—on Sunday, but it was not clear Monday evening who had the upper hand. No detailed casualty toll was immediately available.

What seemed clear was that the fighting wasn't over.

"We are preparing an offensive, it's the strategy we shall adopt from now on," declared Sergeant Sherif Usman, one of the leaders of the rebels, who are soldiers who have returned from exile after earlier political violence, and mutineers.

They are demanding an end to discrimination against northerners, who are mostly Muslims.

Usman, his arm in a sling after receiving a minor wound during the fighting, told journalists that rebel reinforcements had arrived.

He said the insurgents would press south "with vehicles and heavy weapons."

He did not identify targets, but south of Bouake lie Yamoussoukro, the inland capital, where French troops have set up an evacuation point for foreigners and declared a "no-go" zone, and Abidjan, the main city and economic hub on the Atlantic coast. *AFP*

3 S. Asia dailies join Asia News Network

By Mary Kwang
Hongkong Correspondent

THREE dailies in South Asia yesterday joined the region's largest newspaper alliance the Asia News Network (ANN) enlarging the group's membership to 14 newspapers from 13 Asian nations.

They are the Daily Star of Bangladesh, the Dawn of Pakistan and the Island of Sri Lanka.

They complete the South Asia leg of ANN, together with The Statesman of India which is a founding member.

With the new members, ANN's total daily circulation is over 12 million copies and its combined readership is 50 million.

Mr Felix Soh, Deputy Editor of The Straits Times and chairman of the executive board of ANN, addressed participants at a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of Hongkong yesterday.

He said: "The full potential of such an extensive network is waiting to be tapped. And we will tap it further as we actively explore other forms of cooperation beyond news exchanges."

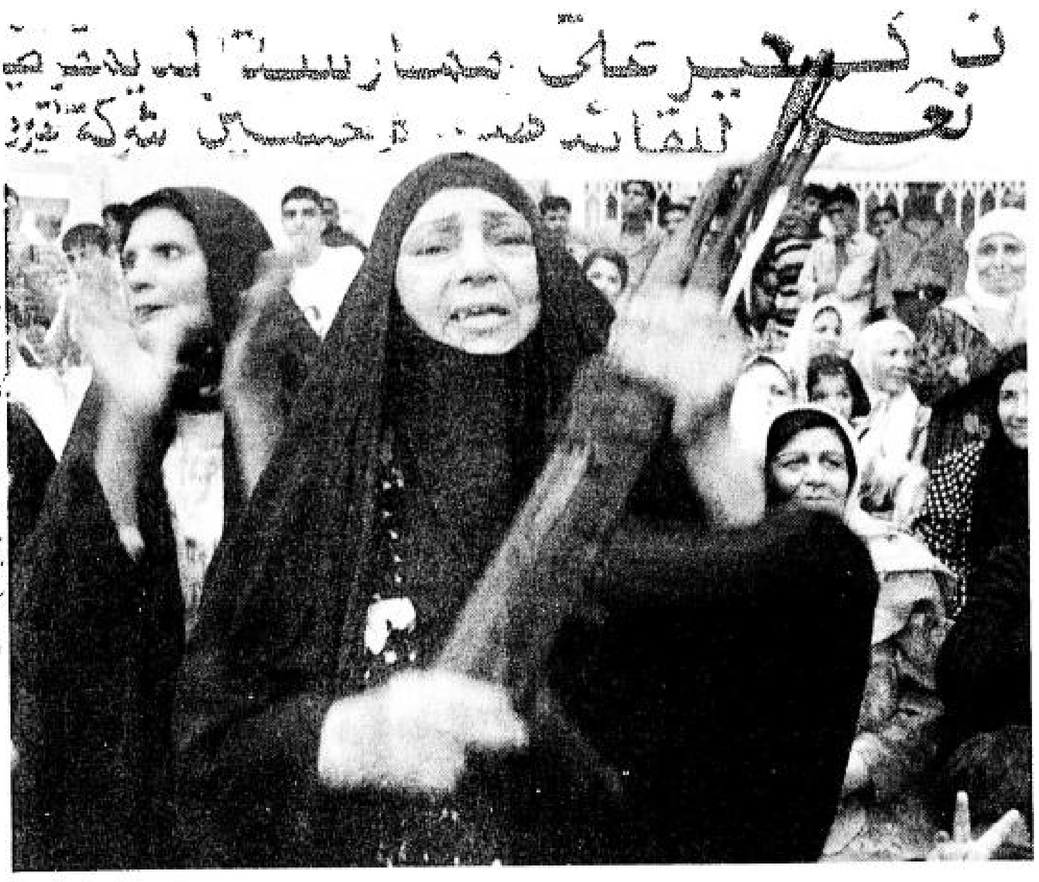
The building block of ANN cooperation is the daily, cost-free, exchange among members of breaking news, analyses, editorials, features and photographs.

The ANN's aims are to promote news coverage of Asian affairs by the Asian media.

Speaking at an ANN board meeting held earlier yesterday, Mr Soh urged members not to be complacent about news exchange among themselves.

"If we don't get our act together with regard to this, others will," he said.

Bush tells Saddam: Destroy arms or face war



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Insisting war is neither imminent nor unavoidable, Bush laid out what Iraq must do: declare and destroy all of its weapons of mass destruction, end support for terrorism, cease persecuting civilians and stop all efforts to skirt UN economic sanctions.

The president also called on Iraq to account for all Gulf War soldiers, including a US pilot, who are still missing, and said Iraqi generals could be judged as war criminals if they followed Saddam's orders.

"By taking these steps and only by taking these steps, the Iraqi regime has an opportunity to avoid conflict." Bush also for the first time demanded the right for inspectors to interview witnesses to Iraq's weapons programs.

"To ensure that we learn the truth, the regime must allow witnesses to its illegal activities to be interviewed outside the country," Bush said. "And these witnesses must be free to bring their families with them, so they are all beyond the reach of Saddam Hussein's terror and murder."

Wooing US lawmakers wary of signing on to a resolution giving him far-reaching authority to wage war on Iraq, Bush said approving the measure "does not mean that military action is imminent or unavoidable.

"The resolution will tell the United Nations, and all nations, that America speaks with one voice and it is determined to make the demands of the civilized world mean something," he said. *AFP*

Bin Laden is alive, bugged call suggests

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Osama bin Laden is alive, traveling with his lieutenant, Egyptian Ayman Al Zawahri, living in Afghanistan and plotting more attacks, according to a satellite telephone conversation reportedly intercepted over the weekend by US and Afghan intelligence.

In the intercepted conversation, the Taliban's fugitive one-eyed leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar allegedly told his former deputy prime minister Maulvi Abdul Kabir that bin Laden and Al Zawahri have lots of money and that something will happen to change the scenario in Afghanistan in the next 45 days.

"We are in receipt of financial aid. Our benefactors have been approached and are supplying us with money," Omar told Kabir, without explaining the origin of the money.

He also told Kabir that "the situation in Afghanistan shall not remain the same. It shall see a change very soon." He warned Kabir against making any public statements for at least another 45 days, but did not say why.

The text of the conversation was given to The Associated Press by an Afghan intelligence official who had previously been with the Taliban administration and said he would readily recognize both Omar's and Kabir's voices.

News of the conversation comes after the Arab Satellite station Al Jazeera released an audiotape said to be from Bin Laden in which a male voice warns that the "youths of God" are planning more attacks against the United States.

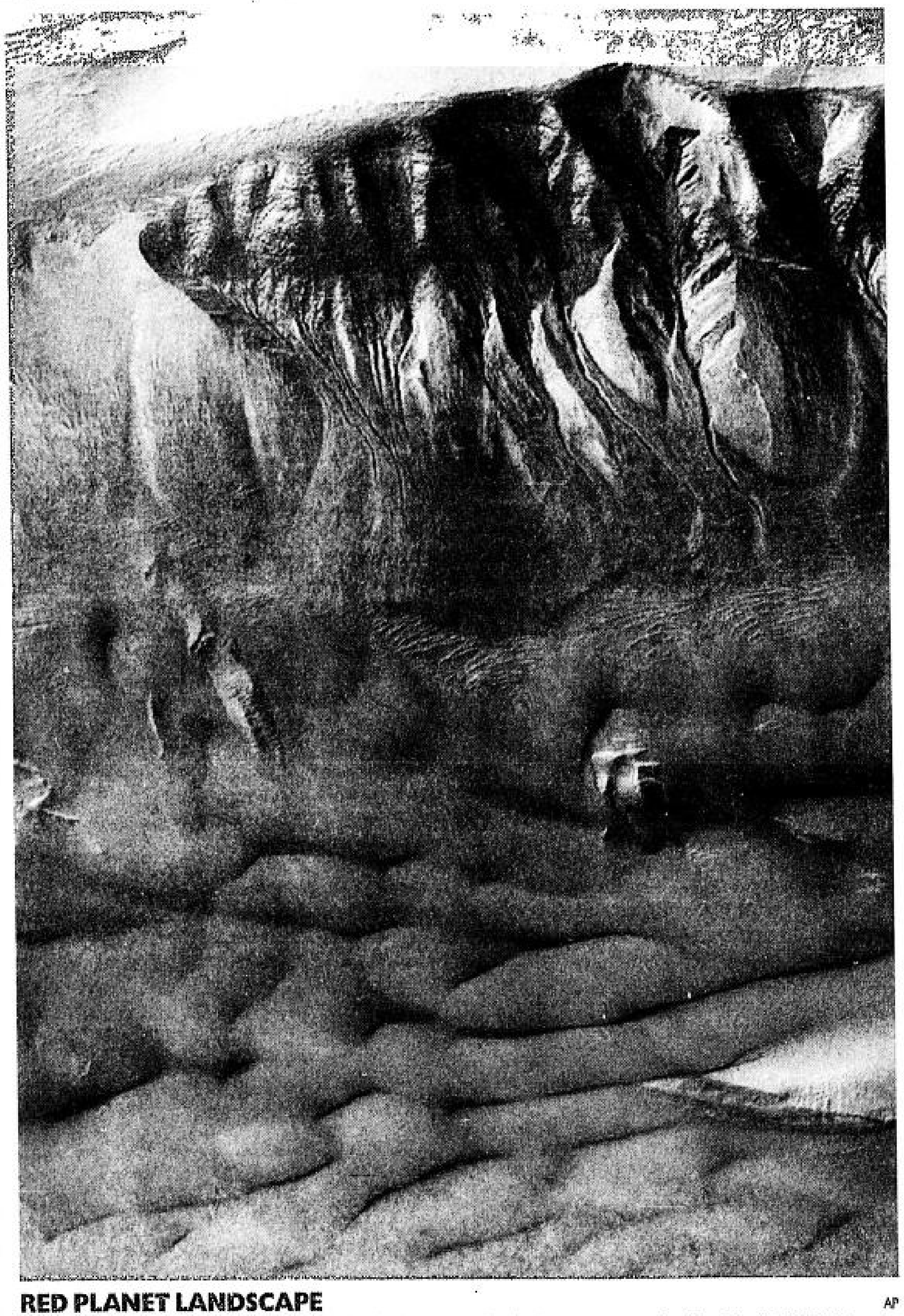
Al-Jazeera, which broadcast the tape Sunday, said the voice was Bin Laden's, but there was no way to verify that claim, or when the recording was made.

"By God, the youths of God are preparing for you things that would fill your hearts with terror and target your economic lifeline until you stop your oppression and aggression" against Muslims, the voice said.

US officials have said they don't know whether Bin Laden, whose al-Qaida terror group is thought to have carried out the Sept. 11 attacks, is still alive. The US State Department had no immediate reaction to the tape.

Al-Jazeera chief editor Ibrahim Helal told The Associated Press by telephone that the station received the tape two hours before the Sunday evening broadcast. He refused to say how the tape was received.

"We had no doubt this was Bin Laden. It was not only the tone of the voice but also the way he spoke and the logic of the message," Helal said. *AP*



RED PLANET LANDSCAPE AP

This undated handout photo, one of the highest-resolution images ever obtained by NASA's Mars Global Surveyor, shows a view of gullies on the walls of a meteor impact crater in the Newton Basin, in Sirenum Terra, Mars. The photo is among a group of 18,812 images being added to the Mars Global Surveyor online image gallery, Oct. 7, 2002.

Washington sniper shoots 8th victim

WASHINGTON—Area police were in a frenzy Monday after investigators linked the shooting of a 13 year-old boy to seven sniper attacks over the past days.

Schools in the greater Washington DC metropolitan area went into a high-security "lockdown" situation after police announced that the teenager was shot just after he had been dropped off at school in the town of Bowie, Maryland, just northeast of Washington.

"This community is in a state of fear, of anxiety," said Douglas Duncan, Montgomery County executive, summarizing the feeling for many of the nearly four million residents of the greater Washington metropolitan area.

Five people were randomly shot to death within a radius of a few kilometers over 16 hours Wednesday and Thursday in Montgomery County, an affluent suburb north of the US capital.

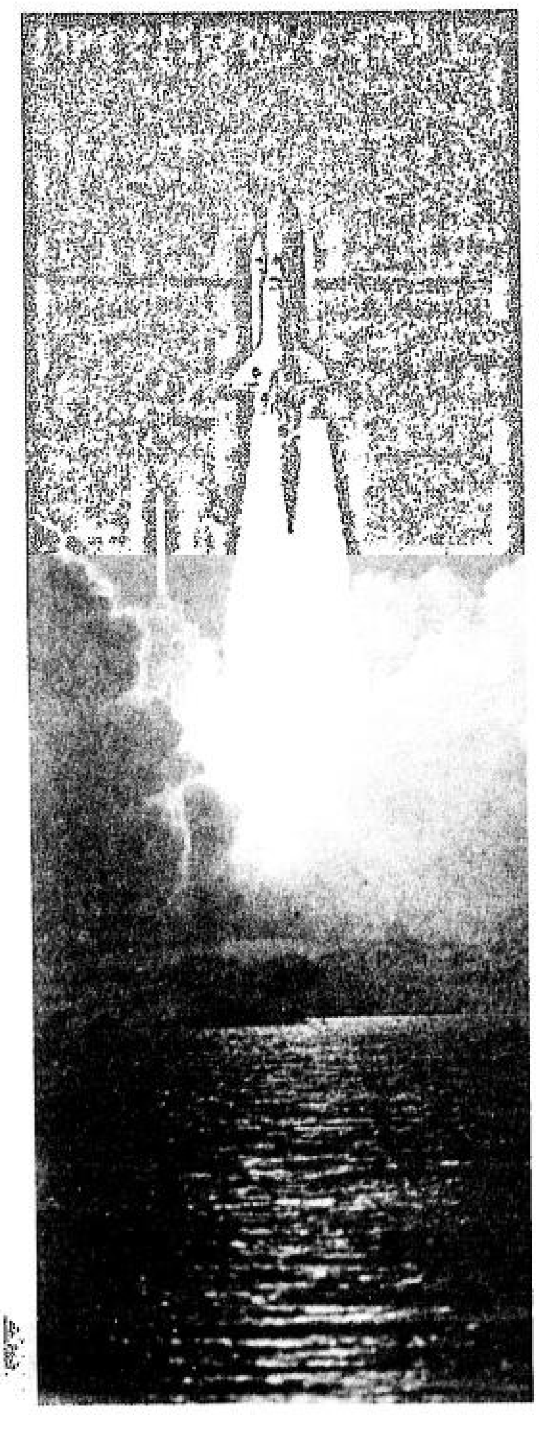
A sixth victim was shot in the chest late Thursday while standing on a street corner in Washington, close to the Maryland state border.

On Friday a woman was shot in the back in the parking lot of a shopping mall in Fredericksburg, Virginia, some 80 km south of Washington. She was hospitalized and reported in fair condition on Monday.

Police believe the same shooter, described as a marksman using a high-power hunting or military rifle, is behind the random killings.

The Bowie teen received "a significant gunshot wound to his abdomen and chest," Martin Eichelberger, a pediatrician at Children's Hospital in Washington, told reporters.

The bullet injured the boy's spleen, stomach and lung, Eichelberger said, adding that he was in critical but stable condition. *AFP*



ATLANTIS BLASTS OFF

The US space shuttle Atlantis blasted off from the Kennedy Space Center Monday in a flawless start of an 11-day mission to the International Space Station, the first since the US shuttle fleet was grounded by cracks in its propulsion system.

The shuttle carrying six astronauts, took off at 3:46 p.m. and eight minutes later reached orbit at an altitude of 226 km. The launch had been delayed by Hurricane Lili, which swept across the US Gulf of Mexico coast last week.

"It was an absolute extraordinary clean launch," NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe said.

"And it was a big deal for NASA, given the fact that it's been so many months since our last launch in June."

O'Keefe said the success of the launch was due to "attention to details and the focus on safety." *AFP*

Ivory Coast rebels ready counteroffensive

BOUAKE, Ivory Coast—Ivory Coast rebel fighters on Tuesday were preparing for a counteroffensive after forcing loyalist forces to retreat from the central insurgent stronghold of Bouake town following heavy fighting.

The army troops retreated late afternoon to the outskirts of the city, the second biggest in the west African nation and home to a million people. However loyalist forces said they would return Tuesday to take the city.

The army launched its two-pronged attack on Bouake—from the north and the southeast—on Sunday, but it was not clear Monday evening who had the upper hand. No detailed casualty toll was immediately available.

What seemed clear was that the fighting wasn't over.

"We are preparing an offensive, it's the strategy we shall adopt from now on," declared Sergeant Sherif Usman, one of the leaders of the rebels, who are soldiers who have returned from exile after earlier political violence, and mutineers.

They are demanding an end to discrimination against northerners, who are mostly Muslims.

Usman, his arm in a sling after receiving a minor wound during the fighting, told journalists that rebel reinforcements had arrived.

He said the insurgents would press south "with vehicles and heavy weapons."

He did not identify targets, but south of Bouake lie Yamoussoukro, the inland capital, where French troops have set up an evacuation point for foreigners and declared a "no-go" zone, and Abidjan, the main city and economic hub on the Atlantic coast. *AFP*

3 S. Asia dailies join Asia News Network

By Mary Kwang
Hongkong Correspondent

THREE dailies in South Asia yesterday joined the region's largest newspaper alliance the Asia News Network (ANN) enlarging the group's membership to 14 newspapers from 13 Asian nations.

They are the Daily Star of Bangladesh, the Dawn of Pakistan and the Island of Sri Lanka.

They complete the South Asia leg of ANN, together with The Statesman of India which is a founding member.

With the new members, ANN's total daily circulation is over 12 million copies and its combined readership is 50 million.

Mr Felix Soh, Deputy Editor of The Straits Times and chairman of the executive board of ANN, addressed participants at a luncheon at the Foreign Correspondents' Club (FCC) of Hongkong yesterday.

He said: "The full potential of such an extensive network is waiting to be tapped. And we will tap it further as we actively explore other forms of cooperation beyond news exchanges."

The building block of ANN cooperation is the daily, cost-free, exchange among members of breaking news, analyses, editorials, features and photographs.

The ANN's aims are to promote news coverage of Asian affairs by the Asian media.

Speaking at an ANN board meeting held earlier yesterday, Mr Soh urged members not to be complacent about news exchange among themselves.

"If we don't get our act together with regard to this, others will," he said.

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Greek vessel skipper, crew probed

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The captain and 24 crewmembers of a Greek vessel are under investigation for leaving the Zamboanga Port allegedly without paying Customs duties amounting to P10 million.

Lt. Allan Uy, spokesperson of the Naval Forces Central, said the Bureau of Customs will determine what possible charges would be filed against the ship officials led by Master David Karakoulian, the skipper of MV Spiros.

Uy said the Navy had turned over the vessel to the Bureau of Customs after MV Spiros, loaded with about 10,000 metric tons of crude salt, docked in Cebu Port on Sunday morning with a Customs inspector from Zamboanga, Abelnasser Abubakar, who was allegedly taken against his will.

The vessel's port of registry showed that it was registered in Linassol, Cyprus. MV Spiros' previous registry was in Havanna, Cuba. Its crewmembers were Ukrainian, Greek, Yugoslavian and Indonesian nationals.

The MV Spiros left the Zamboanga Port on Saturday after unloading 15,169 metric tons of crude salt without paying Customs duties.

The Philippine Coast Guard sought the help of the Philippine Airforce to help locate the vessel but the plane dispatched crashed in the waters off Zamboanga City.

A Navy islander plane spotted the vessel at about noon of Oct. 5 in the waters of Zamboanga del Norte.

The Navy's task group String Ray immediately intercepted the vessel about 15 nautical miles off Sindangan Point, Lilog, Zamboanga del Norte.

Lt. Leo Gascon, commanding officer of String Ray PG392 told the INQUIRER that they asked Karakoulian through radio to stop the vessel but the latter refused.

He said Karakoulian insisted on sailing to Cebu, their next port stop, to avoid being stranded in the sea and because of limited supply of fuel.

He said they consented to the request and escorted the Greek vessel to Cebu after Karakoulian reasoned that the ship might encounter technical problem once they stopped.

Gascon said he was told by Abubakar that Karakoulian refused to dock in Zamboanga and insisted on sailing to Cebu, leaving him no chance to disembark from the vessel.

Karakoulian said he was surprised of their apprehension. He told the INQUIRER that he sailed to Zamboanga from Cagayan de Oro City without securing clearance from Customs for security reasons.

He added they should not be blamed for not paying the Customs duties because it was the responsibility of their agent to comply with the customs' requirements.

RP Embassy help sought for dead nurse in Canada

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Philippine Embassy in Canada had been requested to assist in transporting the body of a Boholano nurse who died in a vehicular accident last Sept. 27 while working in the Northern American country.

The request was made by Vice Gov. Julius Caesar Herrera in a letter sent to Ambassador Francisco Benedicto, Philippine ambassador to Canada.

In his request coursed through Labor Attaché Romy Young, Herrera identified the victim as Marife Soriano, 29, a native of Owac, Bilar town.

Herrera was informed of Soriano's death by her father, Marino Soriano, who visited his office last Sept. 30.

The victim's father said he was informed about the fate of his daughter by her employer. At the time of her death, Marife worked as a private nurse for Alejandro Acebedo, a resident of 8508 A 81 Ave., Edmonton, Alberta. Her two-year contract was supposed to end this October.

It was not immediately known if Acebedo is a Canadian citizen.

Herrera said Acebedo asked the victim's father to travel to Canada to claim the remains of his daughter.

The vice governor added that because of financial constraints and old age, Marino could not make the trip to Canada.

Herrera said the old man is seeking Benedicto's help in transporting her daughter's remains to the Philippines. *Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Naga court orders demolition despite pending appeal

NAGA CITY—Tension gripped the urban poor dwellers in Barangay Sabang here after a team composed of a court sheriff, city hall employees and police tried to demolish some 100 houses in a contested property amid a petition on July 12 asking the Court of Appeals to junk the demolition order.

The demolition team attempted to dismantle the houses of the members of the Sabang Poro Kabisig Organization Inc. (Spokoi) starting Friday.

But the members of Spokoi put up a barricade and stood their ground.

Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo, who was accused by Spokoi members of betrayal, denied that the city government had ordered the demolition.

Robredo claimed that the court could have issued the order and "probably there was a new ruling on the case."

However, an Amy Magdasoc, a Spokoi leader, said a certain retired Col. Navarro who works at the city hall headed the demolition team.

Magdasoc also identified a certain sheriff Cledera and police officer Bongon as among the law enforcers present during the demolition attempt.

The CA has approved to hear the petition of Spokoi members following the principle that litigation "should be decided on the merits and not on technicalities and liberal construction of rules."

In an article published by the INQUIRER on Sept. 12, Idelfonsa Brioso, a 69-year-old leader of the Spokoi, narrated how Robredo, recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award for local governance in 2002, betrayed them.

Robredo had signed two documents that cited different areas for relocation of the Spokoi members on which the lower court based its decision to issue the order of demolition.

In a report dated July 11, 1983, senior investigator Rufino Gabalpin of the Bureau of Lands testified that the contested land in Barangay Sabang here was a public land obtained by private claimants through fraud. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Rights group assails Defensor for Oplan 'Gordian Knot'

BAGUIO CITY—Fearing the resurgence of human rights violations, rights groups in the Cordillera have assailed Armed Forces chief of staff, Gen. Benjamin Defensor, for his latest military plan to end the 30-year-old insurgency.

Defensor launched Oplan Gordian Knot last week to respond to the rising incidence of New People's Army attacks in the provinces.

The new operation allows the military to accelerate its recruitment of soldiers and members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Units (Cafgus), Defensor said.

Beverly Longid, convenor of the Cordillera Human Rights Organization (CHRO), said Oplan Gordian Knot would mean violations of people's rights. She said militarism is not a solution to the decades-old armed conflict between the NPA and the government.

"History has proven that other operation plans (like martial law) failed; (instead) it fanned the flames of revolution," she said.

Longid said before Defensor became AFP chief of staff, they had documented human rights violations by the military.

In Cagayan Valley, Karapatan documented 41 violations allegedly by government troops from January to August this year.

In Cordillera, the CHRO said the military was suspected to be behind the raids on offices and houses of members of non-government groups from December 1999 to September this year.

Longid lambasted the soldiers for recruiting minors, particularly young farmers, as Cafgu members.

The Cafgu is conducting intensive recruitment of minors to strengthen the military's counter-insurgency program against communist rebels in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera, Longid said.

But Maj. Elmer Quiros chief of the Armed Forces' Civil Relations Service in the Ilocos and Cordillera regions, denied the recruitment, saying the Cafgus "do not definitely recruit minors." "Our requirement is still 18 years old and above and that the recruit should be a resident of the area," he added.

In the September 2002 CHRO report, Kalinga remains the most militarized province in the Cordillera. The province hosts the 21st Infantry Battalion and the 77th IB, two battalions of militiamen and a company of Cordillera People's Liberation Army integrees.

Romeo Sanchez of Bayan Muna-Ilocos Sur said the recruitment of minors is rampant in the towns of Sta. Cruz, Sta. Lucia, Tagudin, Cabugao, Vigan and Salcedo, all in Ilocos Sur. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Imported rice with bugs

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Some 320,000 sacks of rice, which arrived here last week from India, were infested with "bukbok" (bugs). Elvira Pabellan, standards and quality assurance officer of the National Food Authority in Northern Mindanao, said it was possible that the rice have long been kept in a warehouse in its country of origin before these were shipped to the Philippines. Renato Tolinero, Port Services Division Manager of the Philippine Ports Authority said MV Diana, the vessel used to ship the stocks in, was kept off the port until fumigation had been conducted on Monday. "Even the crew were also subjected to quarantine since they are foreigners and that is standard operating procedures," Tolinero said. The bug-ridden rice were part of the second batch of import from India, according to Pabellan. She said the commodity, which would soon be distributed in the region, was classified as 25 percent broken or the lowest classification.
Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Military officer killed

COTABATO CITY—A non-commissioned military officer shot and killed a colleague inside the camp of the anti-kidnap Task Force Tugis here on Sunday, police authorities said yesterday. But Senior Insp. Bahnarin Kamaong, spokesperson of the city police, said probers were having a hard time because "no one would like to talk about the incident." Sgt. Alejandro Derequito escaped shortly after he allegedly shot and killed Sgt. Nestor Orofil, also of the Task Force Tugis, with his government issued firearm late afternoon on Sunday. The INQUIRER tried but failed to contact Task Force commander Col. Essel Soriano. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Blasted to death

COTABATO CITY—A man was blasted to death while making an improvised bomb inside his home in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao on Saturday, the military said yesterday. Col. Yerson Depayso, chief of the Army's 57th Infantry Battalion, said Ebrahim Baraguer Jr., 29, and a resident of Barangay Kusiong instantly died when the explosive he was working on prematurely went off at around 2 p.m. Baraguer's helper, who was identified only as Turbo, was injured. Depayso said responding soldiers recovered bomb-making devices from the suspect's tattered house.
Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Indigenous kids baptized

DASMARIÑAS, Cavite—Twenty-seven Mangyan and Dumagat children were baptized last Sunday at the Philippine Christian University (PCU) here. These children belong to more than 20 indigenous families who fled their homes in Mindoro Oriental early this year due to intense military operations in their communities. They are presently staying in makeshift huts at the Kanlungan Development Center, which is under the Southern Tagalog Tanggol Karapatan, in PCU. Pastor Dave Pascua and Pastor Patrick McDivith of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines conducted the mass baptism of the indigenous children. *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Victorias removes 175 employees

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Victorias Milling Co. (VMC) on Monday served notices of retrenchment to 175 employees, a majority of whom belong to its Engineering Services Division.

This completed its workforce reduction target under its rehabilitation plan, said Arthur Aguilar, VMC president and chief operating officer.

"However, as VMC continues to work at becoming globally competitive, it cannot exclude the possibility of retrenchments in the future," he told the INQUIRER.

The company will continue to evaluate its manpower requirements for possible additional downsizing in the future, he said.

Sixth batch

The 175 employees, who were served notices, were the sixth batch of employees to be retrenched this year. Their retrenchment will take effect on Nov. 7 and will cost about P60 million, Aguilar said.

The company decided to reduce its engineering personnel as VMC concentrates on its core business, which is sugar manufacturing and refining, a VMC statement said.

To date, 840 employees, including this batch, had already been separated from the company since VMC resumed its retrenchment program in January, it said.

The VMC's rehabilitation program called for the reduction of its manpower from 2,446 to 1,641, it added.

Cost of rehab

Aguilar told the INQUIRER that the total retrenchment required under the rehabilitation plan cost VMC about P250 million from internally sourced funds.

"We are not proud to have had to lay off one-third of VMC's labor force, we bear the pain of doing that," he said.

However, he said the retrenchment will allow VMC mandatory savings for the future.

Aguilar pointed out that, despite of the retrenchments this year, VMC had the highest production in its 83-year history in terms of cane tonage, which should say something about Victorias' rehabilitation.

Not too many companies shed off and achieve record efficiency at the same time, he said.

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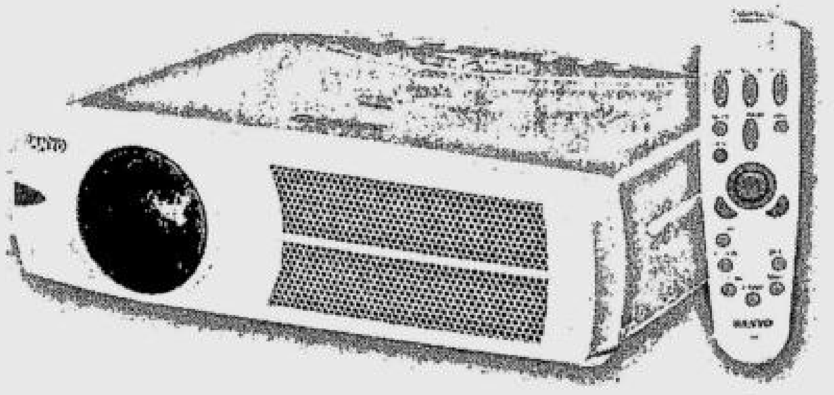

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Bringing Ilocano culture to Hawaii

By Peter La. Julian

FOR the first time in its 94-year history, the University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa is offering a four-year Ilocano degree program, which enables graduates to work in jobs where knowledge of the Ilocano language and culture is required.

Called Bachelor of Arts in Philippine Languages and Literature, with concentration in Ilocano, the program was approved by the university's board of regents on May 17, and opened to undergraduates in the spring (first semester which started in mid-August and will end in mid-December).

Prof. Precy Espiritu, of the UH Department of Hawaiian and Indo-Pacific Languages and Literature and the program coordinator, said the course was in response to the community's clamor for Ilocano-trained professionals in the fields of health, social and legal services, education and commerce.

Espiritu, a native of Ilagan, Isabela, and now an American citizen, said subjects in the BA program included Elementary Ilocano, an introductory course with focus on listening, basic conversation and vocabulary building; Intermediate Ilocano; Ilocano society and culture; Ilocano grammar; modern Philippine drama and film.

Also offered is "Ilocano for interpreters," a subject that deals on techniques in interpreting Ilocano in English and vice-versa.

Ilocano natives

Among the instructors are Espiritu, Josie Paz Clausen, a Ph.D. holder in linguistics; Clemen Montero, a Journalism graduate and educational specialist; and Julius Soria, a lecturer in Ilocano and curriculum developer at the Farrington High School in Honolulu (Ilocano as language is also taught at Farrington).

They were all born in the Ilocos and had come to Hawaii for their masteral and doctor of philosophy degrees in Hawaii and in the United States mainland.

Ilocano is the medium of instruction in the Ilocano language subjects, while English is used in the teaching of Ilocano society and culture and Ilocano literature and grammar.

Students earn three or four credit units in each of the subjects that are conducted four days a week at an hour per session, according to Espiritu.

Espiritu, who is finishing her doctoral degree from an American university, said the Ilocano program in the university actually started in 1972, when several subjects on Ilocano grammar, Ilocano literature and other aspects of Ilocano culture and society were offered as electives in various disciplines like nursing, agriculture and engineering.

Among the best

There are at least 120 undergraduates who are enrolled in the program, Espiritu said. She said Ilocano was one of the best and most extensive language programs in the US.

The University of Hawaii, she said, was the only institution in the world offering a BA degree with a specialization in Ilocano. Students who will graduate from the course will also easily find jobs as interpreters in court proceedings, language teachers and researchers.

Non-Ilocanos can also enroll in the course, Espiritu said.

"There is a basic desire of Filipino students (mostly local born) to learn the language to communicate with their parents and other members of the Ilocano community," she said. "They also want to express their identity and show pride in their Ilocano heritage."

In terms of number, Ilocanos are the most dominant ethno-linguistic group in Hawaii and comprise at least 85 percent of the more than 170,000 Filipinos in Hawaii. Ilocano or Iloko is the major means of communication among Filipinos there.

Hawaii's Filipino (Ilocano) community has produced outstanding leaders in politics and the judiciary there.

State Gov. Benjamin Cayetano is of Filipino ancestry (his father was a native of Urdaneta City). In the 51-member State House, all of the six Filipino-Americans elected legislators are of Ilocano ancestry as are the six Filipino-American senators in the 24-member State Senate.

Peter La. Julian, Inquirer *correspondent for La Union, is in Hawaii on the invitation of the Gumil-Hawaii, the association of Ilocano writers in Hawaii. He is a multi-awarded writer in Iloko and a member of the Gumil-Pilipinas.*

Live at your own risk

By Tonette Orejas
Magalang, Pampanga

UNSAFE homes: some of the 2,000 defective units at the San Isidro resettlement area for Mt. Pinatubo victims in Magalang, Pampanga.

TONETTE OREJAS

IT'S dangerous to live here," said Del Dizon, 53, of her new house at the San Isidro resettlement site in Magalang, Pampanga. "It's hollow," she said, thumping her feet on the floor.

Already, cracks have appeared in the floor of Dizon's house and the entire kitchen has sunk and is detached from the wall. The doors can't be shut tight because the wooden frames are beginning to come out of the walls.

Dizon and her two children still stay in the house despite the structural risks. They lost their house in Mabalacat town to Mt. Pinatubo's lahar rampage in 1992, and they have nowhere else to go. Dizon said she was not easily going to give up the new house that she had waited for almost 10 years to acquire.

"I just stay awake most of the night. I keep guard of signs of danger. I've always been sleepless since we moved here," she explained.

Despite the rains, the settlers were ordered in July to temporarily vacate the units as Army engineers and mostly civilian laborers remedied the defects in the houses. The repair came only after the settlers aired their complaints through the media.

Brig. Gen. Francisco Bravo, chief of the Army's 51st Engineering Brigade, admitted that all 2,000 units in the 30-hectare San Isidro resettlement had defective floors.

The situation called for major repairs. The floors, for instance, had to be demolished as there were indications that not enough materials were used and that specifications were not followed.

Bravo confirmed that the floor had no mix of gravel and was simply coated with a thin layer of cement. Instead of the desired height of one foot, the fillings were only four-inch thick. The reinforcement bars were not clipped together.

Substandard?

Bravo refused to call the houses "substandard" but just the products of "poor workmanship." The defects and safety issue have provoked serious questions on the accountability of the Army engineering brigade, the Mt. Pinatubo Commission (MPC) Task Force and the Pinatubo Project Management Office (PPMO). The task force and its successor were created to complete the task of the MPC, whose two-year extended term ended in December 2000.

Bravo had not responded to an Inquirer request for documents on the project, which ate half of the more than P1-billion recovered funds of the MPC.

Although the San Isidro project was the last single biggest project of the PPMO, limited documents related to it were available and released only at the behest of Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council officials.

The only available documents and interviews with PPMO insiders have established which levels the project had gone wrong.

The project's memorandum of agreement assigned its supervision to the MPC Task Force. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, former Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Bravo and Budget Undersecretary Mario Relampagos, who is also concurrent MPC Task Force executive director, signed the agreement on Sept. 5 last year.

If this were the setup, why had the MPC Task Force failed to detect the flaws or prevented the Army engineering brigade from committing these? A graft case, which the Office of the Ombudsman in Luzon dismissed, provided an answer: No check and balance.

Multi-tasking?

The MPC Task Force had no adequate systems of check and balance because its administrator, Flordelita Arrozal, was "given multiple positions."

According to the complaint filed by former MPC employee Victorio Manuel, Arrozal served as assistant head of the task force, as well as officer-in-charge of the operations unit, director of the administrative services and chair of the acceptance committee.

Arrozal herself also monitored activities in the San Isidro project in the absence of a technical team, task force insiders claimed.

Bravo cleared Arrozal and instead blamed his two project managers, both junior military officials whom he claimed to have been relieved and placed under investigation.

Bravo said he could not doggedly watch the project because the brigade, aside from being involved in disaster response, was implementing 50 other projects in Luzon.

As it is, basic construction flaws were overlooked if not disregarded. Insiders said the construction of the houses began before the site, which is lower by almost two meters from the original ground level, was packed with fillings.

PPMO documents showed that the government spent more money for fewer houses that were unsafe to live in.

Each of the 2,000 units that the brigade built in San Isidro and 500 others in Bulaon cost P85,124. On the other hand, the 7,200 houses built in Madapdap cost P50,854 each and the 5,800 houses built in Sta. Lucia, P52,269.

Of the brigade's original budget of P450 million, only P212 million directly went to the cost of constructing the houses. The rest went to land acquisition, land development and other amenities.

The San Isidro project was awarded to the Army brigade without any competition, according to task force insiders. No alternate proposals came from other government agencies or private contractors.

Bravo and PPMO officials continued to cite the "emergency nature" of the project when asked why no public bidding was held.

Amid the controversy, the only assurance that came from Bravo was that his brigade would not turn over the San Isidro project until the repair works were not finished.

Giving BLIST project a blast of fresh air

By Frank Cimatu
Baguio City

IRISAN garbage dump in Baguio City

TOOTS SOBERANO

HAVE you noticed that roses seem to be more fragrant in Baguio City than in Manila? You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure this out, but it certainly helps.

If you still know your high school physics, as the altitude increases, oxygen levels decrease. At higher elevations, there is less barometric pressure and so less oxygen is dissolved in the air you breathe.

In Baguio, which is 1,500 meters or a little less than a mile above sea level, there is 18-20 percent less oxygen in the air than at sea level. This means that the smell of roses indeed is more intense in Baguio than in Manila.

No wonder some tourists swear that they can smell the pine trees even from the car window.

But so does the smell of car exhaust. Rolando Reyes, an engineer of the Environment Management Bureau (EMB)-Cordillera Administrative Region, said that because of the rarefied air in Baguio, the dispersion and diffusion of oxygen would also lessen. This means that air pollutants have smaller room to circulate in the air and more pollutants will be inhaled.

Lower standards

Reyes said because of this particular altitude problem of Baguio, the emission standards as specified by the Clean Air Act of 1999 should also be lowered.

It is with this position that the EMB called for the creation last week of a BLIST Airshed. BLIST stands for Baguio, La Trinidad, Irisan, Sablan and Tuba. It was established right after the July 1990 earthquake to create a Metro Baguio by expanding to its neighboring towns.

Plans for the development of tourism, water system, transport, housing, land and employment for BLIST had been completed in 1996 through the help of urban planners from Europe, but these have remained unimplemented.

One problem is that the neighboring towns felt that they should not be the "catchment basin" for Baguio's urban problems.

But air is something that transcends borders. For example, the smoke from the Irisan garbage dump in Baguio is giving migraines to residents in Tuba, Benguet, since the smoke usually goes to them. Jeepneys and buses plying the BLIST area also leave their emissions in Baguio.

By itself, Baguio's air pollution is worsening. The Americans in the 1900s created the city as a sanitarium, so those afflicted with tuberculosis went up to Baguio to clean their lungs. Now the city has one of the biggest number of cases of respiratory illness.

With the establishment of the BLIST Airshed, the EMB is mandated to come up with a common air quality management action plan by next year, Reyes said.

Tuba Mayor Jose Baluda said he was glad that the BLIST plan was revived, even for air quality management. He said he would discuss with the board his town's problem with the Irisan dump.

Emission tests

Perfecto Itliong, head of the jeepney drivers and operators association in the city, said emission tests should be standardized so that his members could prepare their engines accordingly.

The tests should not be administered on registration of vehicles because these would mean a hefty fine immediately, he said.

When the Land Transportation Office in Manila tested its emission machine last summer, at least 300 vehicles were fined in a day.

Environmentalists also lamented the non-inclusion of tree planting as among the measures to control air pollution.

Don't trust just any policeman–Ebdane

From page A1

eign businessmen are afraid to invest in the Philippines.

"We have been going after them. In fact, some of them have been killed during tactical operations," he said.

On Sept. 18, for instance, ex-Marine officer Rodolfo Patinio and two other alleged kidnappers were gunned down during a supposed shootout with policemen in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The arrest of ex-Marine Sgt. Joseph Mostrales, a member of former President Joseph Estrada's security team, was solid proof of the PNP earnest efforts in ridding its ranks of scalawags, according to Ebdane.

Mostrales is also the confessed gunman in the killing of Baron Cervantes, the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers' Union.

In August, Ebdane presented to the President a police superintendent, two policemen and two civilian informers who were allegedly involved in highway robbery, extortion and car theft.

Last month, the President ordered the PNP to draw up an order of battle listing the policemen and soldiers involved in kidnapping following the arrest of five kidnappers, two of whom were former soldiers.

During the Bulong Pulungan forum, Ebdane also explained said that "there was some sort of internal politics" involved in the escape of Pentagon gang leader Faisal Marohombsar from the heavily guarded compound of the defunct National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force in Camp Crame.

Ebdane said that Marohombsar, who was later killed in a supposed shootout with Pacer members and military officers in Cavite, was made to escape to discredit his leadership.

So far, no foreign links, says PNP chief

By TJ burgonio

"WE are talking of locals here," said Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, who had blamed the Abu Sayyaf from Day 1 after the Zamboanga bombing.

The man, who carried out the Oct. 3 blast on a videoke bar in Zamboanga City that killed an American soldier and two Filipino civilians, has no links at all with any foreign terrorist group, other police officials said yesterday.

In fact, two waitresses in the bar had identified the man who parked the motorcycle with a bomb which exploded outside the bar, said Chief Supt. Eduardo Matillano, director for Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG).

"He's a member of the Abu Sayyaf gang," he told reporters, but declined to identify him pending his arrest.

Asked if the suspect was in any way connected with a foreign terrorist group, Matillano said: "We don't have such a report. What we know is that he is a member of the Abu Sayyaf group connected to (Khadaffy) Janjalani."

Their statements came in the wake of persistent reports that Jemaah Islamiah, a militant group based in Indonesia and believed to have links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, was behind the blast.

Bike owner

Police investigators had earlier traced the ownership of the 100 cc Honda motorcycle to one Kenneth Pang, resident of Veterans Extension, Barangay Tumaga, Zamboanga City.

According to Matillano, Pang sold his motorcycle to someone, who in turn lent it to the suspect.

Police investigators have yet to establish the type of bomb used. "The residue has been submitted to the crime laboratory. We're still awaiting the results," said Ebdane.

One of those killed in the attack was Sgt. Mark Jackson of the US Green Berets. Jackson was part of a small group of soldiers who stayed behind in Mindanao to build infrastructure projects following the completion of US-RP joint military exercises.

The blast also injured another American soldier and 200 other Filipinos.

Jordanian held for possible links to Zamboanga bombing

From page A1

ic militants more notorious for kidnapping local and foreign tourists, businessmen and missionaries.

"We could not see, right now, a direct link," Defensor said, but stressed "we could not discount that possibility."

Manila and Washington have both said the Abu Sayyaf has links to al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Ghaffari's links

According to Domingo, intelligence reports indicate al Ghaffari's brother is a member of the Palestinian militant group Hamas and that al Ghaffari is a good friend of Jamal Khalifa, a brother-in-law of Osama bin Laden.

Domingo said al Ghaffari was asking for an extension of his stay in the Philippines—his visa expired June 27—and that documents he showed to officials had signs of tampering.

Philippine intelligence reports say Khalifa used a network of private Muslim groups, foundations and businesses in the Philippines to covertly funnel support to the Abu Sayyaf and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Al Ghaffari arrived in the Philippines on a student visa on Nov. 15, 1985, He was blacklisted in 1995 on a police request over reports linking him to terrorist activities, Domingo said.

Al Ghaffari, who had obtained a resident visa after marrying a Filipino, has been under surveillance since 1995, the intelligence source said. Domingo would not disclose what led to his arrest now, but said she had read media reports quoting military officials as saying they believed al Ghaffari may have masterminded the bombing.

"For years, we've been monitoring him," the intelligence source told AP. "He should have been deported before, but we wanted to watch where he's going, what he's doing, who he is talking with."

The source said al Ghaffari had coordinated and acted as liaison for anti-US and anti-Israel rallies in front of the US Embassy.

4 suspects freed

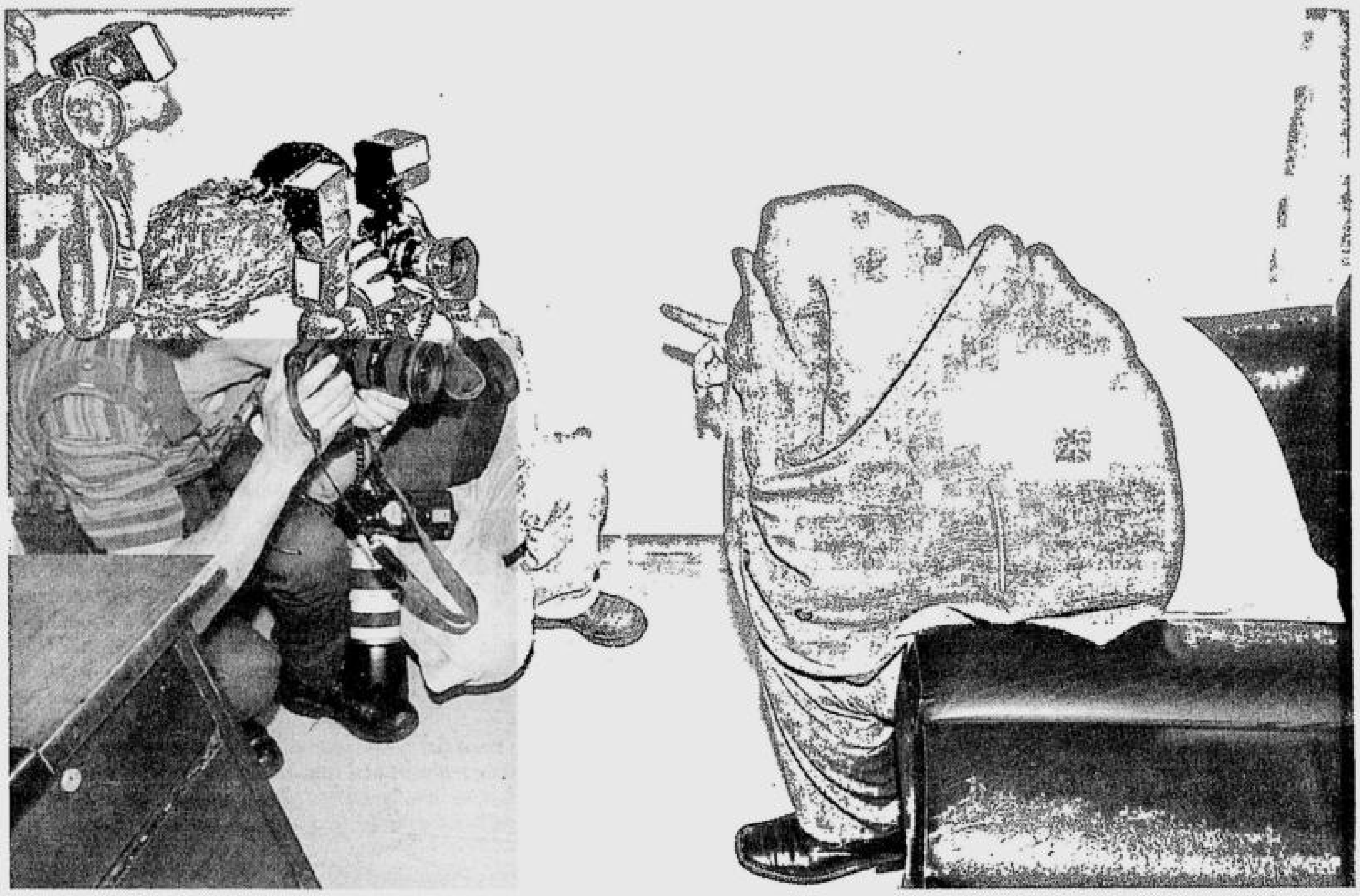
Four residents of a Muslim village were freed Tuesday, a day after they were arrested in a security sweep against known Abu Sayyaf lairs by military intelligence units, local television reported. No reason was given for their brief detention.

Carolina said Monday that government forces were monitoring "four high-risk foreign nationals," regarding the bombing.

"They are suspects but I am not sure if they are linked to the incident," the general said.

The foreigners were also believed to have conducted certain activities with the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping group, Carolina said without giving further details.

The bombing could be a "test mission" for Abu Sayyaf trained terrorists designed to ease military pressure on their comrades now on the run from the manhunt on the nearby islands of Basilan and Jolo, Carolina said.



CAMERA-SHY, Dr. Mohammad Amin al Ghaffari is questioned at the Bureau of Immigration, either for an expired passport and/or possible link to the Zamboanga bombing last week. ERIK ARAZAS

Philippine authorities were working with a team from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and the US Army and Navy investigating units on the case, Carolina said.

The slain US soldier was among a small group of US soldiers who stayed behind in the Philippines to carry out civic projects after hundreds of US troops trained and assisted their Filipino counterparts against the Abu Sayyaf earlier this year. *With reports from Hernan P. dela Cruz and Ed General/PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Inquirer wires*

GMA moves to fortify political coalition

From page A1

pagal is the chair.

"The designation of Espiritu as the new Lakas treasurer only affirms that the two parties are moving hand-in-hand towards a common objective," Kampi secretary general Emigdio Tanjuatco told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"We are talking of the reelection of President Macapagal in 2004," Tanjuatco said.

Kampi has been dormant since Ms Macapagal, then a senator, ran as vice presidential candidate of Speaker Jose de Venecia of Lakas in the 1998 elections.

Presidential publicist Dante Ang recently revived Kampi, which has generated suspicions that President Macapagal may junk Lakas if she doesn't get her way with the ruling party, which is strongly identified with President Fidel Ramos.

But Tanjuatco said that the designation of Espiritu, a known Macapagal ally, as the new Lakas treasurer was not primarily intended to assure some Lakas quarters that Ms Macapagal plans to stick it out with Lakas.

"It was more to the comfort level of the President," Tanjuatco said. "She feels more comfortable having Espiritu as treasurer of Lakas." Espiritu had replaced Tony Villar.

Tanjuatco said that Lakas and Kampi are partners in the People Power Coalition and there is no reason why the two parties should be seen as rivals.

SOUNDING a call for unity during the LP's induction of officers, President Macapagal asks her political allies to join her to fight for the future of the people. EDWIN BACASMAS

"We've been partners and we'll remain so in 2004," Tanjuatco said.

The LP said as much to the President yesterday.

"Whatever happens, we will not leave you. We will support you beyond 2004. Whatever your plans are, you can be sure of our support," Abad told the President.

He said they would not break away from their alliance with the ruling Lakas party.

Other officers

The other LP officers inducted by the president included Manila Mayor Lito Atienza as executive vice president; Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III as VP for Luzon; Rep. Antonio Nachura for Visayas; Rep. JR Nereus Acosta for Mindanao; housing chief Mike Defensor for NCR; Rep. Danton Bueser VP for sectors;

Rep. Rodolfo Bacani, secretary general; Rep. Junie Cua, deputy secretary general; Rep. Rafael Nantes, treasurer; Rep. Joey Hizon deputy treasurer;

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of parliamentary caucus; and Eastern Samar Gov. Raul Daza as chair of caucus of local chief executives.

Part of problem

"Let us continue to create together. Let us never fight. Let us win the future together for the people," the President said during the LP officers' induction.

She asked the party to join her to fight the "politics of personality and patronage."

She said such kind of politics is part of the problem of poverty.

"We can never win the fight against poverty unless we change the character of politics.

"The politics of personality and patronage is a politics of the status quo. This is part of the problem. We need a new kind of politics," she said.

"We have to find a way of ending the decades-old adversarial but often horse trading relationship between Congress and the presidency," she went on.

Tourists in Basilan? Why not?

From page A1

could even entice members of the notorious Abu Sayyaf to come down from the mountains to work in the planned resort.

Gordon said his department was also willing to tap the bandits to promote tourism in Mindanao.

He said Basilan was not always the violent place that it had become today, noting it used to be a tranquil island with lush forests and rubber plantations.

Gordon said the peace and order situation there deteriorated because there were not enough jobs for the island's growing population.

Before Gordon's dream could come true, however, he would have to find entrepreneurs willing to invest in Basilan.

Gordon said the Alanos might be able to get foreign partners for their planned business venture.

The Department of Tourism and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority recently signed an agreement to set up "tourism economic zones" around the country. Business firms who invest in these tourism zones could get tax incentives to help their businesses thrive.

"Critical tourism-related infrastructure in tourism enterprise zones will be prioritized such as airports, main roads, seaports, basic utilities and transportation," Gordon said.

"Moreover, alternative funding sources will be actively sought if government allocations are not sufficient," he added.

Local officials share Gordon's dream of turning Basilan into a tropical paradise. A couple of years back, Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar announced plans to turn Mt. Mahadji in Sumisip town into a tourist attraction. Abu Sayyaf bandits were then holding 27 hostages in the same area.

GORDON: Vision of tourists gamboling under the sun.

The provincial tourism officer then recalled that busloads of tourists, like Japanese, Australians, Germans and Canadians, used to visit Basilan in the early 1970s and up to the 1980s.

"For them, Basilan was an exotic and the most peaceful place to visit," the officer said.

But out of the blue came the Abu Sayyaf, which began to kidnap foreigners and local residents in the 1990s. The self-styled Moro fundamentalist militants found kidnapping a highly lucrative business, earning millions of dollars from ransom payments.

Various foreign governments have warned their citizens to keep out of Basilan, lest they be kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf bandits.

Even so, Gordon remains upbeat about Basilan, particularly after US and Philippine troops held joint counter-terrorism exercises on the island this year to stamp out the Abu Sayyaf, a group allegedly linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Who says you don't hire a fox to guard your poultry farm just because it knows its way around the hen house?

General says gov't losing media war

From page A1

hat we had with the terrorist NPA group, 66 of them were government-initiated. Only 18 were nitiated by the rebels," Kyamko old the INQUIRER.

He reported that Solcom recovered at least 205 firearms, includng two machine guns, from the NPA during the period. "Well, some people do not believe in statistics. But this is the truth," he said.

"Unfortunately for us, most of these incidents have not been picked up by Manila-based media groups," Kyamko said. To highlight the alleged "unbalanced" reporting, Kyamko cited the recent NPA attacks in Quezon and Bicol. "They all landed on prominent space in almost all national newspapers with general circulation," he said.

He recalled that when Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff, visited Camp Nakar, Solcom displayed all the firearms that it recovered from the communist insurgents.

"We intentionally displayed the firearms. I was expecting that the firearms would generate news. But then again, the papers did not report it. Not even the photos of the displayed firearms were used," he said.

The INQUIRER carried Defensor's visit but the news focused on his challenge to Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), to come out from hiding and slug it out in the open.

Display of bravery

But Kyamko thanked the crew of a Manila-based television station for airing the story on the gallant display of bravery of the soldiers and militiamen in the defense of a road construction firm in San Narciso, Quezon.

"Despite the overwhelming number of the NPA attackers, my men were still able to repulse the raiders. The rebels were not able to overrun the detachment," he said.

PHOTO-OP for Miel Gracilla Laurinaria, an executive committee member of the Marxist-Leninist Party and formerly central committee member of the Communist Party of the Philippines. She is presented to the media by President Macapagal in Camp Aguinaldo. *(See story below.)*

EDWIN BACASMAS

"Publicly I say these sentiments is enough for me. But I would be more than happy if I would see these in print," the Solcom chief said.

On Monday, the Quezon provincial police filed charges of murder, frustrated murder, attempted murder and arson before the Municipal Trial Court of San Narciso against Rosal, Tirso Alcantara alias Ka Bart and at least 51 others for the raid. Twenty-five of the accused have been identified, according to the police.

On Friday, the Quezon police also filed complaints of human rights violation before the Commission on Human Rights regional office in San Pablo City against Rosal and at least 67 suspected NPA members in connection with the raid on San Narciso.

Rosal said the target of the NPA attack in San Narciso was the military detachment and not Keangnam Construction.

He also explained the NPA burning of heavy equipment in Angat, Bulacan. "The crushing plant operation has long been the subject of complaints by the residents in the area. But the government officials ignored the complaints," Rosal said.

The CPP spokesperson said that was when the NPA came in. "The people directly brought their complaints to us. We had to act and defend the rights of the masses," he said.

Punishment

Rosal said the burning of the Bayan Telecommunication Co. relay station in Camarines Sur on Saturday was a simple case of "punishment" of the firm for non-payment of revolutionary taxes. Some 25 NPA members torched Bayantel's P80-million relay post in Bula town.

Rosal said the burning of the Bayantel facility was not in line with supposed order of Jose Maria Sison, founder of the CPP, for the NPA to destroy communication stations and to topple power lines. "That's not the case here in Bayantel. It was a simple implementation by the local NPA command of the 'revolutionary tax on a class enemy,'" Rosal said in a cell phone interview.

But Rosal said he was merely voicing his own opinion. "I don't have the official report yet, so I can't make any official statement on the matter," he said.

He maintained that the NPA had the right to collect revolutionary taxes in areas where it was operating. "Non-compliance is meted out a corresponding punishment. Let this serve as warning to others," he said.

Kyamko said "the NPA's latest violent streak was a clear manifestation of its terrorist inclination."

The NPA has warned it will launch more offensives unless the military pulls out from Malapatan, Sarangani. The warning was issued by Orang Sarangani, who claims to be the spokesperson of the Alex Ababa Command of the NPA-Far South Mindanao Region, against members of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion based in Malapatan.

The NPA launched simultaneous attacks on two separate Army camps manned by the Alpha Company of the 27th IB in Malapatan on Sept. 21. No one was hurt in the attacks.

"The 27th IB should expect more offensives from the armed propaganda unit and the people's militia of the New People's Army. We are determined to inflict more harm against them to let them know the strong opposition of the people to its decision to set up camp in the area," Orang Sarangani said in a statement.

With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Freeze of Erap assets covers Gatchalian firms

By Volt Contreras

THE RECENT Sandiganbayan freeze order on the assets of ousted President Joseph Estrada covers shares of stocks of two firms owned by "plastics king" William Gatchalian, Equitable PCI Bank said yesterday. The shares of Waterfront Phils. (450 million) and Wellex (300 million) were used as collateral for a loan drawn from the controversial Jose Velarde account.

At the trial of Estrada, Equitable updated the anti-graft court on a trust account created to facilitate the payment of a P500-million loan that Estrada extended to Gatchalian in 2000.

Estrada admitted to signing as Jose Velarde the papers approving the loan in February 2000 in Malacañang. He claimed, though, that he only did so as a "guarantor" because the account's real owner was another friend of his, Jaime Dichaves.

Documents pertaining to the trust account, which were submitted to the court's Sheriff's Office, showed that a total of 750 million shares of the Gatchalian-owned firms served as collateral for the loan. Chief Sheriff Ed Urieta said the shares were considered covered by the freeze order.

GATCHALIAN

Equitable, which holds the Velarde account, notified the court about the account's existence yesterday in response to the sheriff's Sept. 30 notice of garnishment.

Gerardo Banzon, the bank's legal officer, reminded the court, however, that the trust account was already placed under "constructive restraint" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue as early as Jan. 29, 2001, or a few days after Estrada was ousted.

State prosecutors clarified that the trust account was separate from Velarde's savings account which was recently reported to contain only P2,700.

Top woman rebel leader falls

By Martin P. Marfil

A RANKING communist party leader, who allegedly participated in the bloody purge of the 1980s, was arrested Sunday in Caloocan City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo presented Miel Gracilla Laurenaria, 49, former member of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

At the time of her arrest, she was a member of the executive committee of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines (MLPP), a splinter group of the CPP.

Her arrest came after Camp Aguinaldo committed a series of errors when it announced that five members of the communist New People's Army had been killed in a recent firefight, that the Zamboanga City bomber had been killed by the blast and that a second bomb that exploded in the city was the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf.

In the three instances, Camp Aguinaldo got everything wrong. The five suspected NPA rebels killed in Mexico, Pampanga, were members of a criminal syndicate, according to a police report.

It also turned out that the "suspect" in the Zamboanga City bombing was a passerby and that the second bomb was the handiwork of a "prankster," according to a military official.

Camp Aguinaldo said Laurenaria was picked up at around 4 p.m. at the "periphery of Maypajo Market in Dagat-Dagatan" on the basis of two warrants of arrest issued by Quezon courts.

Laurenaria is believed to have joined the underground movement in the late 1960s but the military began recording her activities only in the early 1970s. She started out as a courier. Later, she became the finance officer of the regional party committee, then head of its organizational department. She was named director of the party's women's bureau before becoming an alternate member of the CPP central committee and secretary of the Southern Tagalog party committee.

As head of the regional party committee, she was elected member of the CPP central committee at its 9th plenum in 1985.

The military said that it was during her stint as regional party head that "Operation Missing Link" was initiated. The operation resulted in the death and torture of hundreds of members of the underground movement suspected of being "deep penetration agents."

In 1989, Laurenaria was placed on Disciplinary Action (DA) by the CPP, which was then distancing itself from the purge, according to the military. When the CPP split in 1993, Laurenaria remained with the Jose Ma. Sison group but she felt betrayed as she was "continuously maligned."

When the MLPP was organized by Frank Pascual in February 1998 she was named a member of its executive committee.

Sex case against Gokongwei brother dismissed

From page A1

pany senior vice president, of sexual abuse. She claimed Go had touched her private parts during company gatherings and tried to woo her affections with promises of a promotion while Severino encouraged her to accommodate Go's alleged sexual advances.

Both Go and Severino have stoutly denied Soriano's accusations. "Untruthful, absurd and impossible allegations" from "a 49-year-old grandmother," Go had told the INQUIRER in August when the story first saw print.

Soriano, now 51, quit Digitel two years ago after Severino allegedly dared her to resign if she continued to resist Go's alleged intentions.

At the last hearing of the case's preliminary investigation on Aug. 21, Venturanza had promised Soriano that he would be issuing a resolution within a month.

After that, Soriano said that she had phone conversations with Venturanza, who had told her that he and the other fiscal would be concluding the case in September.

"How long do I have to wait?" Soriano asked Venturanza in a letter she filed yesterday before learning that the case had already been dismissed.

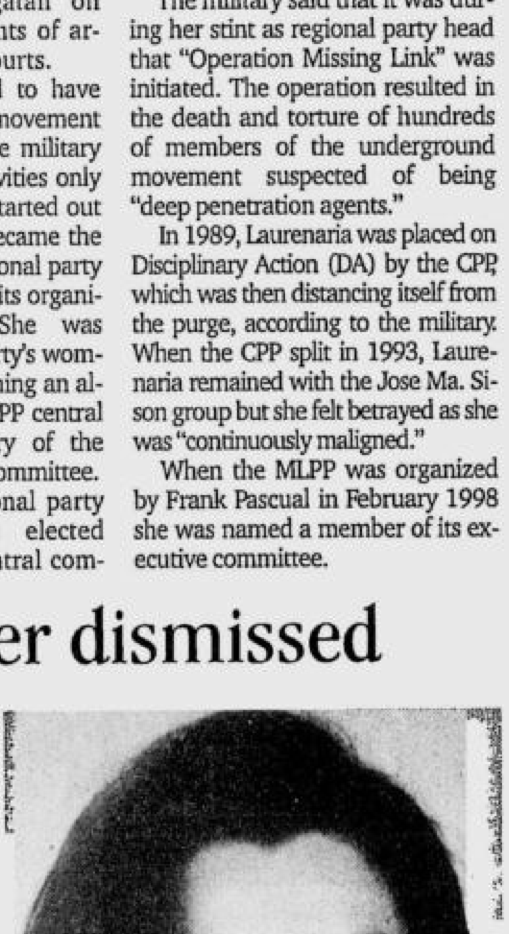
"I have waited long enough to see justice take place. I have no doubt that you and the other fiscals would render a just and fair resolution. Be that as it may, a protracted process would be inimical to the image of our judiciary system," the letter said.

"Furthermore, think of the other women these two offenders are likely to abuse. They are, up to this day, gainfully employed and basking in wealth, power and influence," it added.

Trivial treatment

Rina Anastacio of the Gabriela Network of Professionals condemned Venturanza for his decision, saying that the dismissal of Soriano's charges indicates how trivial sexual violence cases are viewed by the country's justice system.

Last April, Soriano also filed charges against Go and Severino before the National Labor Relations Commission for illegal dismissal.



SORIANO: Last to know about the dismissal.

Erap 'telenovela' . . .

From page A1

The Sandiganbayan special division hearing the Estrada cases used to pack in up to 110 people, with no one allowed to watch the hearing standing up.

Full capacity was the norm especially when Estrada and his co-accused son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, were still required to attend every hearing.

The sharply divided crowd then had their respective seating areas. The pro-Estrada group stayed behind the defense lawyers' table, while the antis occupied the rows behind the prosecution panel. Press people were made to take the middle rows separating the two camps.

At last Monday's hearing, the INQUIRER observed only 35 souls, including the justices, lawyers, and staff. One would mistake it for an ordinary Sandiganbayan hearing because of the many vacant seats.

Conspicuously absent for a long time now are members of the anti-Estrada group PlunderWatch, who used to make up the majority of those rooting for the government lawyers.

PlunderWatch convenor Carol Araullo admitted that her group had "'lost the interest to mobilize" for the Estrada hearings because of a growing rift with the public prosecutors.

Araullo said her group began to feel "'marginalized" by the prosecutors when they did not support the PlunderWatch-initiated petition to cite Estrada for contempt over his scathing remarks against the justice system.

"'Unlike during the impeachment trial, we are no longer apprised of their strategy," she said. "We are now 'outside the *kulambo*.'"

Plunderwatch also sensed that the Macapagal administration had softened its stance on Estrada after a resolution in Congress supporting Estrada's request to have knee surgery abroad gained ground, Araullo said. "That resolution would not have gone that far without a go-signal from Malacañang," she said.

But Araullo clarified that her group's non-attendance in the Estrada hearings did not mean that it had lost interest in the cases and in seeing the former president convicted. For now, Plunderwatch is keeping track of the cases by just relying on media reports, she said.

ERAP fatigue: Even Plunder Watch is no longer watching.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Ferdie Ramos, one of the Estrada camp's media handlers, offered simpler explanations for the trial's dwindling audience.

"Public interest has apparently waned because, other than (juetenggate whistle-blower Luis) Chavit Singson, the rest of the witnesses were practically unknown and they merely gave corroborative testimonies," Ramos said.

Even Singson's own testimony at the Sandiganbayan was in large part just a mere repetition of what he told the Senate impeachment court, said Ramos, who has never missed a hearing since Estrada's arraignment on July 10 last year.

Ramos maintained that at least 15 to 20 Estrada supporters—mostly housewives from the nearby Payatas and Batasan slums—were consistently attending the hearings, which are held Mondays and Wednesdays.

He noted that the last time a full-house was achieved was during Singson's marathon testimony from late July to mid-September.

Back then, busloads of pro- and anti-Singson groups came all the way from Ilocos Sur to see him reprise his impeachment trial bombshells against Estrada.

Bigger crowds are expected to attend the hearing when prosecutors present their last star witness, bank executive Clarissa Ocampo, according to Ramos.

Know how to dance the cucumber samba?

From page A1

phemisms for making love.

In this day and age, people continue to use these euphemisms because they remain uncomfortable with discussing sex, according to an Australian sex therapist and relationships counselor.

"Sex is a difficult subject to discuss," said Dr. Rosie King, who trains doctors in Australia and Asia to be comfortable with discussing sexual health and dysfunction problems with their patients. He is in the country to explain the findings of Pfizer's Global Study of Sexual Attitudes and Behavior.

Even in the age of the Internet people still communicate sex in the way bees and birds do—nonverbal, according to King.

"Most of our communication about sex is non-verbal," she said. King urged people to be open about the subject with their sexual partners, their doctors and their children.

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King said the growing problem of sexual dysfunction among people could never be solved unless they speak out on the matter.

Dr. Jose Albert C. Reyes, one of the country's leading urologists, admits that even doctors were too "timid" to talk about sex, given the conservative nature of Filipinos.

In the Pfizer study, 71 percent of Filipinos said that sex was extremely important in their lives. In Asia, the Philippines ranked third—behind South Korea and Indonesia—among countries valuing sex highly.

General says gov't losing media war

rom page A1

hat we had with the terrorist NPA group, 66 of them were govrnment-initiated. Only 18 were nitiated by the rebels," Kyamko old the INQUIRER.

He reported that Solcom recovered at least 205 firearms, including two machine guns, from the NPA during the period. "Well, some people do not believe in statistics. But this is the truth," he said.

"Unfortunately for us, most of hese incidents have not been picked up by Manila-based media groups," Kyamko said. To highlight the alleged "unbalanced" reporting, Kyamko cited the recent NPA attacks in Quezon and Bicol. "They all landed on prominent space in almost all national newspapers with general circulation," he said.

He recalled that when Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief of staff, visited Camp Nakar, Solcom displayed all the firearms that it recovered from the communist insurgents.

"We intentionally displayed the firearms. I was expecting that the firearms would generate news. But then again, the papers did not report it. Not even the photos of the displayed firearms were used," he said.

The INQUIRER carried Defensor's visit but the news focused on his challenge to Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), to come out from hiding and slug it out in the open.

Display of bravery

But Kyamko thanked the crew of a Manila-based television station for airing the story on the gallant display of bravery of the soldiers and militiamen in the defense of a road construction firm in San Narciso, Quezon.

"Despite the overwhelming number of the NPA attackers, my men were still able to repulse the raiders. The rebels were not able to overrun the detachment," he said.

"Publicly I say these sentiments is enough for me. But I would be more than happy if I would see these in print," the Solcom chief said.

On Monday, the Quezon provincial police filed charges of murder, frustrated murder, attempted murder and arson before the Municipal Trial Court of San Narciso against Rosal, Tirso Alcantara alias Ka Bart and at least 51 others for the raid. Twenty-five of the accused have been identified, according to the police.

On Friday, the Quezon police also filed complaints of human rights violation before the Commission on Human Rights regional office in San Pablo City against Rosal and at least 67 suspected NPA members in connection with the raid on San Narciso.

Rosal said the target of the NPA attack in San Narciso was the military detachment and not Keangnam Construction.

He also explained the NPA burning of heavy equipment in Angat, Bulacan. "The crushing plant operation has long been the subject of complaints by the residents in the area. But the government officials ignored the complaints," Rosal said.

The CPP spokesperson said that was when the NPA came in. "The people directly brought their complaints to us. We had to act and defend the rights of the masses," he said.

Punishment

Rosal said the burning of the Bayan Telecommunication Co. relay station in Camarines Sur on Saturday was a simple case of "punishment" of the firm for non-payment of revolutionary taxes. Some 25 NPA members torched Bayantel's P80-million relay post in Bula town.

Rosal said the burning of the Bayantel facility was not in line with supposed order of Jose Maria Sison, founder of the CPP, for the NPA to destroy communication stations and to topple power lines. "That's not the case here in Bayantel. It was a simple implementation by the local NPA command of the 'revolutionary tax on a class enemy,'" Rosal said in a cell phone interview.

But Rosal said he was merely voicing his own opinion. "I don't have the official report yet, so I can't make any official statement on the matter," he said.

He maintained that the NPA had the right to collect revolutionary taxes in areas where it was operating. "Non-compliance is meted out a corresponding punishment. Let this serve as warning to others," he said.

Kyamko said "the NPA's latest violent streak was a clear manifestation of its terrorist inclination."

The NPA has warned it will launch more offensives unless the military pulls out from Malapatan, Sarangani. The warning was issued by Orang Sarangani, who claims to be the spokesperson of the Alex Ababa Command of the NPA-Far South Mindanao Region, against members of the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion based in Malapatan.

The NPA launched simultaneous attacks on two separate Army camps manned by the Alpha Company of the 27th IB in Malapatan on Sept. 21. No one was hurt in the attacks.

"The 27th IB should expect more offensives from the armed propaganda unit and the people's militia of the New People's Army. We are determined to inflict more harm against them to let them know the strong opposition of the people to its decision to set up camp in the area," Orang Sarangani said in a statement.

With a report from Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PHOTO-OP for Miel Gracilla Laurinaria, an executive committee member of the Marxist-Leninist Party and formerly central committee member of the Communist Party of the Philippines. She is presented to the media by President Macapagal in Camp Aguinaldo. *(See story below.)*

EDWIN BACASMAS

Top woman rebel leader falls

By Martin P. Marfil

A RANKING communist party leader, who allegedly participated in the bloody purge of the 1980s, was arrested Sunday in Caloocan City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo presented Miel Gracilla Laurenaria, 49, former member of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines, at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

At the time of her arrest, she was a member of the executive committee of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines (MLPP), a splinter group of the CPP.

Her arrest came after Camp Aguinaldo committed a series of errors when it announced that five members of the communist New People's Army had been killed in a recent firefight, that the Zamboanga City bomber had been killed by the blast and that a second bomb that exploded in the city was the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf.

In the three instances, Camp Aguinaldo got everything wrong. The five suspected NPA rebels killed in Mexico, Pampanga, were members of a criminal syndicate, according to a police report.

It also turned out that the "suspect" in the Zamboanga City bombing was a passerby and that the second bomb was the handiwork of a "prankster," according to a military official.

Camp Aguinaldo said Laurenaria was picked up at around 4 p.m. at the "periphery of Maypajo Market in Dagat-Dagatan" on the basis of two warrants of arrest issued by Quezon courts.

Laurenaria is believed to have joined the underground movement in the late 1960s but the military began recording her activities only in the early 1970s. She started out as a courier. Later, she became the finance officer of the regional party committee, then head of its organizational department. She was named director of the party's women's bureau before becoming an alternate member of the CPP central committee and secretary of the Southern Tagalog party committee.

As head of the regional party committee, she was elected member of the CPP central committee at its 9th plenum in 1985.

The military said that it was during her stint as regional party head that "Operation Missing Link" was initiated. The operation resulted in the death and torture of hundreds of members of the underground movement suspected of being "deep penetration agents."

In 1989, Laurenaria was placed on Disciplinary Action (DA) by the CPP, which was then distancing itself from the purge, according to the military. When the CPP split in 1993, Laurenaria remained with the Jose Ma. Sison group but she felt betrayed as she was "continuously maligned."

When the MLPP was organized by Frank Pascual in February 1998 she was named a member of its executive committee.

Sex case against Gokongwei brother dismissed

From page A1

pany senior vice president, of sexual abuse. She claimed Go had touched her private parts during company gatherings and tried to woo her affections with promises of a promotion while Severino encouraged her to accommodate Go's alleged sexual advances.

Both Go and Severino have stoutly denied Soriano's accusations. "Untruthful, absurd and impossible allegations" from "a 49-year-old grandmother," Go had told the INQUIRER in August when the story first saw print.

Soriano, now 51, quit Digitel two years ago after Severino allegedly dared her to resign if she continued to resist Go's alleged intentions.

At the last hearing of the case's preliminary investigation on Aug. 21, Venturanza had promised Soriano that he would be issuing a resolution within a month.

After that, Soriano said that she had phone conversations with Venturanza, who had told her that he and the other fiscal would be concluding the case in September.

"How long do I have to wait?" Soriano asked Venturanza in a letter she filed yesterday before learning that the case had already been dismissed.

"I have waited long enough to see justice take place. I have no doubt that you and the other fiscals would render a just and fair resolution. Be that as it may, a protracted process would be inimical to the image of our judiciary system," the letter said.

"Furthermore, think of the other women these two offenders are likely to abuse. They are, up to this day, gainfully employed and basking in wealth, power and influence," it added.

Trivial treatment

Rina Anastacio of the Gabriela Network of Professionals condemned Venturanza for his decision, saying that the dismissal of Soriano's charges indicates how trivial sexual violence cases are viewed by the country's justice system.

Last April, Soriano also filed charges against Go and Severino before the National Labor Relations Commission for illegal dismissal.

SORIANO: Last to know about the dismissal.

Freeze of Erap assets covers Gatchalian firms

By Volt Contreras

THE RECENT Sandiganbayan freeze order on the assets of ousted President Joseph Estrada covers shares of stocks of two firms owned by "plastics king" William Gatchalian, Equitable PCI Bank said yesterday. The shares of Waterfront Phils. (450 million) and Wellex (300 million) were used as collateral for a loan drawn from the controversial Jose Velarde account.

At the trial of Estrada, Equitable updated the anti-graft court on a trust account created to facilitate the payment of a P500-million loan that Estrada extended to Gatchalian in 2000.

Estrada admitted to signing as Jose Velarde the papers approving the loan in February 2000 in Malacañang. He claimed, though, that he only did so as a "guarantor" because the account's real owner was another friend of his, Jaime Dichaves.

Documents pertaining to the trust account, which were submitted to the court's Sheriff's Office, showed that a total of 750 million shares of the Gatchalian-owned firms served as collateral for the loan. Chief Sheriff Ed Urieta said the shares were considered covered by the freeze order.

Equitable, which holds the Velarde account, notified the court about the account's existence yesterday in response to the sheriff's Sept. 30 notice of garnishment.

Gerardo Banzon, the bank's legal officer, reminded the court, however, that the trust account was already placed under "constructive restraint" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue as early as Jan. 29, 2001, or a few days after Estrada was ousted.

State prosecutors clarified that the trust account was separate from Velarde's savings account which was recently reported to contain only P2,700.

GATCHALIAN

Erap 'telenovela' . . .

From page A1

The Sandiganbayan special division hearing the Estrada cases used to pack in up to 110 people, with no one allowed to watch the hearing standing up.

Full capacity was the norm especially when Estrada and his co-accused son, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, were still required to attend every hearing.

The sharply divided crowd then had their respective seating areas. The pro-Estrada group stayed behind the defense lawyers' table, while the antis occupied the rows behind the prosecution panel. Press people were made to take the middle rows separating the two camps.

At last Monday's hearing, the INQUIRER observed only 35 souls, including the justices, lawyers, and staff. One would mistake it for an ordinary Sandiganbayan hearing because of the many vacant seats.

Conspicuously absent for a long time now are members of the anti-Estrada group PlunderWatch, who used to make up the majority of those rooting for the government lawyers.

PlunderWatch convenor Carol Araullo admitted that her group had "'lost the interest to mobilize" for the Estrada hearings because of a growing rift with the public prosecutors.

Araullo said her group began to feel "'marginalized" by the prosecutors when they did not support the PlunderWatch-initiated petition to cite Estrada for contempt over his scathing remarks against the justice system.

"'Unlike during the impeachment trial, we are no longer apprised of their strategy," she said. "We are now 'outside the *kulambo*.'"

Plunderwatch also sensed that the Macapagal administration had softened its stance on Estrada after a resolution in Congress supporting Estrada's request to have knee surgery abroad gained ground, Araullo said. "That resolution would not have gone that far without a go-signal from Malacañang," she said.

But Araullo clarified that her group's non-attendance in the Estrada hearings did not mean that it had lost interest in the cases and in seeing the former president convicted. For now, Plunderwatch is keeping track of the cases by just relying on media reports, she said.

Ferdie Ramos, one of the Estrada camp's media handlers, offered simpler explanations for the trial's dwindling audience.

"Public interest has apparently waned because, other than (jueteng gate whistle-blower Luis) Chavit Singson, the rest of the witnesses were practically unknown and they merely gave corroborative testimonies," Ramos said.

Even Singson's own testimony at the Sandiganbayan was in large part just a mere repetition of what he told the Senate impeachment court, said Ramos, who has never missed a hearing since Estrada's arraignment on July 10 last year.

Ramos maintained that at least 15 to 20 Estrada supporters—mostly housewives from the nearby Payatas and Batasan slums—were consistently attending the hearings, which are held Mondays and Wednesdays.

He noted that the last time a full-house was achieved was during Singson's marathon testimony from late July to mid-September.

Back then, busloads of pro- and anti-Singson groups came all the way from Ilocos Sur to see him reprise his impeachment trial bombshells against Estrada.

Bigger crowds are expected to attend the hearing when prosecutors present their last star witness, bank executive Clarissa Ocampo, according to Ramos.

ERAP fatigue: Even Plunder Watch is no longer watching.

DENNIS SABANGAN

Know how to dance the cucumber samba?

From page A1

phemisms for making love.

In this day and age, people continue to use these euphemisms because they remain uncomfortable with discussing sex, according to an Australian sex therapist and relationships counselor.

"Sex is a difficult subject to discuss," said Dr. Rosie King, who trains doctors in Australia and Asia to be comfortable with discussing sexual health and dysfunction problems with their patients. He is in the country to explain the findings of Pfizer's Global Study of Sexual Attitudes and Behavior.

Even in the age of the Internet people still communicate sex in the way bees and birds do—non-verbal, according to King.

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In the Pfizer study, 71 percent of Filipinos said that sex was extremely important in their lives. In Asia, the Philippines ranked third—behind South Korea and Indonesia—among countries valuing sex highly.

SIX DIGIT
9 2 0 9 2 6

SUERTRES (In exact order)
4 8 4

6/42 Luzon
10 11 16 22 29 38

Vis-Min
1 3 9 21 22 42

SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza ◎ Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

RP boxer Tanamor assured of bronze
A22

BUHAIN

Buhain, China sports mogul strike deal

Chinese to PSC Chair: We will tell you all our secrets to success

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines scored a different kind of gold medal yesterday in the 14th Asian Games here. And it was not stashed away in any of the 38 battlefields being used in the 44-nation meet.

Eric Buhain, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, struck up a historic deal with China's Sports Minister that would hopefully make the country a sports superpower in no time.

"We will give you all our secrets to success," Wei Min Yuan, China's Sports Minister, told Buhain over lunch. "Come to our country and we will bare everything to you."

The historic meeting was arranged by Francis Chan of wushu.

"For China's big boss to be offering us to someday become big in sports, that's quite a welcome development for us," said Buhain. "This is victory of a different kind, an opportunity that we should grab immediately."

Wei agreed to host Buhain for a four-province tour of China in April next year, a journey concentrated on the ramifications of how China became a world power in sports.

China's dominance of the 14th Asian Games is a reflection of how far the Chinese have left behind their neighbors.

Ten days into the Asiad, China has acquired 97 gold medals–more than half of South Korea's output of 47, and 66 gold medals more than Japan's total of 31. The Koreans are second, 16 gold medals ahead of Japan.

"Mr. Wei said they will show us their training facilities and expound on their training programs that have made China a world power in sports," said Buhain. "We will make sure that this trip would redound to the betterment of Philippine sports."

Buhain, although a swimmer at heart after he won a bronze medal in the 100-m breaststroke in the 1990 Beijing Asiad, said the agreement with Wei encompasses all sports.

"We will cover everything, and I assure you it is not only swimming but all sports that we play," said Buhain. "Mr. Wei has promised to help us acquire the Chinese formula of success."

Buhain also said Wei told him: "We really have no secrets."

But of course to Buhain, that's easier said than done.

ASIAD BASKETBALL

China blasts RP, 92-51

'We had a dream, but reality woke us up'

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Jong Uichico was right. You allow China to have a jack rabbit start and you are finished.

That, in a nutshell, was what China did to the Philippines last night when the defending champion Chinese routed the Filipinos, 92-51, in the 14th Asian Games at Geumjeong Gymnasium here.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002
©BAGOC 1996

The towering Chinese raced to a 19-10 first quarter margin almost in a snap, and then swooped down on the hapless Filipinos like unstoppable rocks from a sudden landslide to move to within two games of retaining the title.

With only barely two minutes gone in the second quarter, China stared at a 15-point, 27-12 margin, stretching that to 38-21 at the half before putting the game away at 67-31 late into the third quarter.

It was just gravy from there for the Chinese, who inflicted the Filipinos their first defeat by a rout since the RP team was formed in January.

"We dreamed of beating China," said Uichico, head coach of the Philippine quintet. "It's not bad to dream. But then, reality woke us up."

With the setback—a no-bearing game, anyway—the Filipinos' next dream is to defeat South Korea on Friday as a loss would shove them to a battle for third against Kazakhstan on Sunday.

Before the game, the 40-year-old Uichico was very emphatic: Never allow the Chinese to lead you by 10 early in the game.

Running game

"I've studied all their games," he said. "They would always race to a 10-point margin at the start, and then wear you out with their running game from there."

Uichico did find time to praise his boys for defending well at the start.

But in the same breadth, he rued the anemic shooting of his wards in the same stretch.

"We had a decent defense but unfortunately, we also had an indecent offense," he said, referring to the poor shooting of the Filipinos in which they made only 4-of-21 field goals for an eerie 19 percent clip in the first quarter.

After the game, the stats showed the Filipinos only sank 2 of 23 triples and were 29.9 percent in field goal shooting by making only 20 of 67 attempts. The only bright note for them—if you can call it that—was their 9-of-10 shooting from the line.

Free throw shooting

In contrast, the Chinese had a 56.1 percent clip from the field and 7-of-21 from the arc. Even their free throw shooting was superb: 21-of-23, with Yao Ming doing 5-of-6 in 2-1/4 quarters of action.

The Filipinos had open shots at the start but failed to capitalize on them. They seemed tentative and appeared intimidated, leading to numerous turnovers.

But Uichico had another explanation for that.

"We are 6-foot-3s, yes, but against taller players like the Chinese, your shooting gets to be affected," he said of his boys, who missed all their 9 three-point shots in the first quarter—three by the usually sharp Olsen Racela.

Asi Taulava, the team's pillar of points, was 1-of-5 in that stretch from the field. He was blocked twice by the 7-foot-5 Yao Ming, including an attempted dunk.

Dr. Jorge Canlas, the team physician, said Taulava had a bum stomach just hours before the game.

But even if Taulava were 100 percent for the game, he would still have been eaten alive by Yao Ming, the NBA player who proved to be China's Great Wall with his five shot blocks in just 18 minutes of action.

Andy Seigle did a superb yeoman's job for Taulava but he, too, was simply no match for the talented Yao Ming.

Seigle did something Yao Ming would not forget, though: He wrestled Yao Ming to the floor during one rebound.

Yao Ming pulled out

Coach Wang Fei got scared and, not long after that, he pulled out Yao Ming.

There would have been more blocks for the 22-year-old Yao but coach Wang Fei pulled him out with 5:15 left in the third quarter—never to be fielded back again.

After the game, Yao said: "I was not good in this game tonight. It was only in defense that I was good."

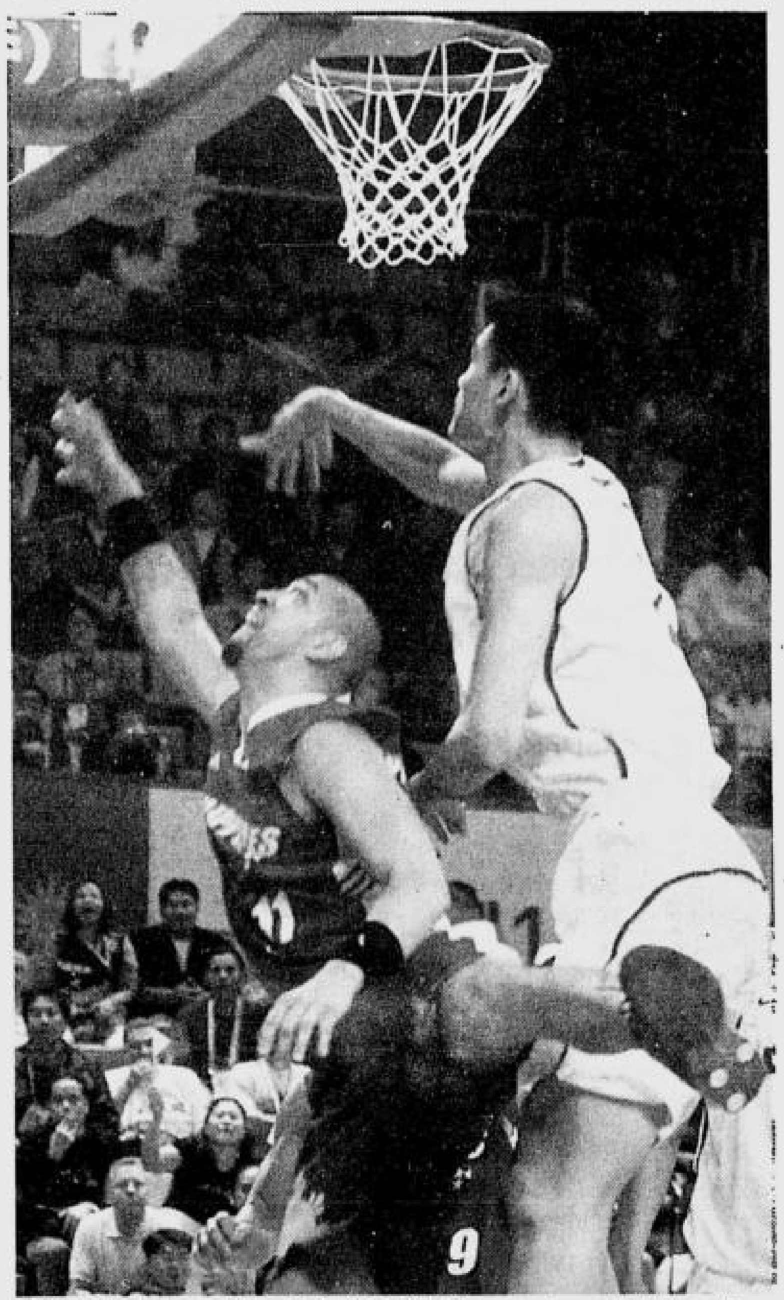
He made sure of that right from the very start when he easily grabbed the first missed shot by the Filipinos—a triple from right by Racela that would have given the Philippines its first—and last—taste of the lead.

With still more than five minutes left in the game, Wang pulled out his first stringers. The second liners proved deadly too: they tattooed the Filipinos with three triples near the endgame.

Is the silver medal still achievable?

"We can dream again," said Uichico. "As I said, it's not bad to dream."

Scores:
CHINA 92—Hu 20, Liu 11, Li 11, Gong 9, Liu Y 9, Yao 9, Chen 8, Menke 6, Guo 4, Zhu 3, Du 2, Zhang 0.
RP 51—Espino 7, Pennisi 6, Seigle 6, Taulava 6, Duremdes 6, Castillo 5, Hatfield 5, Carlaso 4, Ildefonso 2, Racela 2, Hontiveros 2, Menk 0.
Quarters: 19-10, 38-21, 71-33, 92-51.


CHINESE behemoth Yao Ming (right) foils an undergoal attempt by Andy Seigle of the Philippines during their match last night. The Chinese won, 92-51. JESS YUSON

Medal-less day pulls Pinoys down to 15th

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—The Philippines had a bronze for its taking in boxing and lined itself for possible medals in bowling and athletics, providing some color in an otherwise dull day in the 14th Asian Games here yesterday.

Light flyweight Harry Tanamor trounced Indian Md.Ali Qmar, 21-10, yesterday to advance to the semifinals and assure himself of a bronze medal, but it hardly created a ripple in the Philippine camp. *(See related story on Tanamor on A22).*

What caused a big stir was the national basketball team's 92-51 loss to China in the quarterfinals later in the night.

"We entertained illusions, but reality told us that China is indeed very hard to beat," said head coach Jong Uichico. "We tried our best but we were battling big men who also move fast."

The all-pro Filipinos now face the tough task of besting the South Koreans in the crossover semis, instead of having an easier time against the Kazakhs.

The euphoria over Tanamor's victory quickly dissipated after Sydney Olympian Romeo Brin became the third straight Pakistani victim when he yielded to Ashgar Ali Shah, 31-15, in the light welter division.

It prompted coach Nolito "Boy" Velasco to hurl charges that boxing bouts were being rigged in favor of Pakistan, from where Amateur International Boxing Association president Anwar Chowdry comes from.

The Philippines was left with three boxers in contention with two of them, middleweight Maraon Goles and lightweight Anthony Igusquiza, trying to match Tanamor's effort today.

Blocking Goles' way was another Pakistani, Ahmed Ali Khan, while Igusquiza has to pass through Uzbekistan's Madmonov, Dilshov.

Due to its failure to produce any medal, the Philippines slipped to 15th in the overall standings with two golds, three silvers and six bronzes. It, however, stayed in front of southeast Asian rivals Vietnam (2-2-3) and Indonesia (1-5-5).

China continued to pull away from the rest of the 44-nation field with its 103-49-43 tally, leaving South Korea (52-54-57) and Japan (35-53-42) eating dust.

Bowling, the most productive discipline for the Filipinos thus far with one gold, two silvers and one bronze, may yet increase its output as Liza Clutario, Engelberto "Biboy" Rivera and Chester King remained in the hunt after the first half of the 16-game Masters eliminations at the Homeplus Alley.

Clutario ranked third in the women's division with 1773, while Rivera and King checked in fifth and 10th with 1824 and 1766, respectively.

Ernie Candelario kept the country's bid in the 400m alive by advancing to the finals, ranking fourth in his heat and 6th overall.

The fancied John Lozada, however, tumbled in the 800m run, fading away in the last 200m after setting the early pace.

Jennifer Chan started strong in the women's individual Olympic Round in archery by downing her first two opponents–Tajikistan's Gavhar Rajabova, 159-153, and China's Yu Hui, 153-151, only to tumble against another Chinese, Zhang Juan-Juan, 100-108, in the quarterfinals.

Shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, table tennis bet Crisanta Abas and cyclists Paterno Curtan Jr. and Victor Espiritu also faltered against world-class opposition.

2002 Busan Asian Games

DREAM 4 GOLD

Honor thy father— and coach

BUSAN, South Korea--Hammer gold medalist Koji Murofushi says that while he's in South Korea, he'll do as the Koreans.

That's the approach he took Tuesday when asked if he was a better hammer thrower than his father, Shigenobu Murofushi, who won five straight Asian Games golds in the hammer between 1970-86.

"Korean people always respect old people, so this time I'd like to say my father," Koji Murofushi said, prompting laughter at a news conference after he won the gold.

Murofushi's father is also his coach. The elder Murofushi holds the record for consecutive titles at the Asian Games.

The younger Murofushi also won the hammer at the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, Thailand, but he wasn't confident that he would be able to match his father's record.

"This is really hard work, and I don't think that I can do this, but I like the challenge," he said.

***

For 83-year-old Lee Hyang-moon, volunteer work at the Asian Games as a Japanese-Korean interpreter is a "medicine for health."

The oldest games volunteer mans the information desk at the athlete's village from 2 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to help Japanese-speaking athletes.

But when his languages skills are not required, he keeps himself busy by sweeping the floors and taking out the garbage.

"It's like taking medicine for health to serve here," said the Busan resident.

Before the Asian Games, Lee's daily routine was walking his dog, helping tenants of his building and writing letters to politicians.

***

With the Asian Games more than half over, a gymnast with four golds, two swimmers with three golds and a lifter with a world record are among the most valuable player candidates.

Japanese swimmer Kosuke Kitajima, who shortened the decade-old 200-meter breaststroke record by 0.19 seconds to 2:09.97, is the only non-Chinese competitor listed.

Others are gymnast Zhang Nan, swimmer Wu Peng and lifter Le Maosheng, who improved the men's 62-kilogram class clean-and-jerk record to 182.5 kilograms from 181.0.

Sports officials and journalists will vote for the MVP on Oct. 12-13.

The winner will receive a golden trophy and US$20,000 in cash at the closing ceremony Oct. 14.

Four runners-up will receive silver trophies and prizes.

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Bustamante, Reyes to play for RP in Vietnam SEA Games

BUSAN, South Korea—"We're always on call for the country."

Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Efren "Bata" Reyes stressed this yesterday as they expressed willingness to carry the Philippine colors anew in the 2003 Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam.

"I'll be there (Vietnam) if my services are still needed," said Bustamante before boarding the plane that would take him to Maryland, USA, in time for the new billiards event called 7-ball Sudden Death.

Reyes also made himself available for Team Philippines again after settling for just one bronze medal (8-ball singles) in the 14th Asian Games here.

Of course, both are badly needed.

As he has shown in winning the 9-ball doubles with Antonio Lining, Bustamante would be very difficult to beat in the regional level.

Same with Reyes, who had said that the 3-cushion carom he was entered was really not his forte.

Bustamante added playing for the country was a pleasant experience.

Roy Luarca

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Hong insists on 12-for-12 for jins

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—He's back in his native land, the country where taekwondo started. But South Korean Hong Sung Chon still insists all the 12 Filipino jins he brought here for the 14th Asian Games will be bringing home medals.

There's a clarification, though.

"We'll really be able to get a more accurate picture of our chances after tomorrow's (today's) draw," said Hong, vice president of the Philippine Taekwondo Association and largely credited for the sport's tremendous growth in the country in the last 20 years.

The draw is scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m. today with the rest of the competing nations hoping to avoid an early collision with the host nation.

"I expect my athletes to deliver. They know it and they've promised to give their best. What I'm really happy about is that they are all highly spirited and grimly determined," said Hong. "Everybody is healthy, everybody is ready. They have already adjusted to the cold weather here."

C'lario in final

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—Ernie Candelario stuck it out with the lead group and qualified, compatriot John Lozada gave it all too early and got booted out.

That was the contrasting fate of the two Filipinos yesterday in the athletics competitions of the 14th Asian Games at the Asiad Main Stadium here.

The 5-foot-9 Candelario, who hails from Tigbauan, Iloilo, contented himself with a fourth place finish in his 400m heat, putting just enough effort to advance to today's final with his clocking of 46.84 seconds.

Candelario's time was below his personal best of 46.69 he set in topping the event in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games and was good for sixth place among the eight finalists. Saudi Arabia's Handam Al Bushi was top qualifier in 45.86.

RP SKED IN BUSAN

Oct. 9, 2002

(Korea time 1 hr, ahead of RP time):

Athletics 3:20 p.m.—J. Lozada, 800m run (finals, depending on semifinal results)

4:20 p.m.—E Candelario, 400m run (finals, depending on semifinal results)

Archery 9 a.m. to 12 noon—M. Cordero, C. Cubilla, Olympic round, men's individual (1/32F, 1/16F, 1/8F)

2 to 5 p.m.—Olympic round, men's individual (qrtrfinal, semifinal, 3rd-4th, 1st-2nd)

Bowling 9 to 11:30 a.m.—E. Rivero, C. King, L. Clutario, L. del Rosario, Masters, men/women (second 8-game block)

1 to 3 p.m.—Masters, men/women (grand finals)

Boxing 2 p.m.—A. Igusquiza va M Dilshov, Uzbekistan, 60kg (lightweight), qrtrfinals; M. Goles vs A Khan, Pakistan, 75kg (middleweight), qrtrfinal

Sailing 11 a.m.—R. Balladares, R. Chavez, J. Villena, L. Taroja, men/women, all classes (11th race, finals)

Table Tennis 2 p.m.—C. Abas, women's singles (semifinals, depending on results in previous rds)

4:30 p.m.—Women's singles (finals)

OTHER GUYS

Bautista, Lining deserve credit

By Roy Luarca

BUSAN, South Korea—They're the other guys so to speak. They're part of victorious doubles teams for the Philippines and yet their names are not mentioned in the same breath as their partners.

Of course, Paeng Nepomuceno and Francisco "Django" Bustamante are sports superstars back home. This is precisely the reason why their respective partners–Rowen Jay Bautista and Antonio Lining–have been confined to the shadows in the 14th Asian Games.

Some may say that six-time world champion Nepomuceno could still have won the bowling doubles and Bustamante, also a world champion, the 9-ball doubles whoever their partners were.

That's a probability, not a fact.

Bautista and Lining complemented the efforts of Nepomuceno and Bustamanate, now that's a fact.

Without the 226 average of Bautista, Nepomuceno's 226.33 average in the six-game doubles series would not have toppled the Japanese, the Koreans and the Taiwanese.

Without Lining's explosive break that knocked in 3 balls and led to a clean-up in the deciding game, Bustamanate could not have been certain of besting the Korean tandem.

Remember also that Bautista and Lining are top caliber players themselves, or they wouldn't even be here.

14th Asian Games BUSAN 2002

RJ, as he is called in the bowling circle, was born on Valentine's Day 24 years ago. The Bautista family migrated to Canada in 1997, but RJ returned seven months later. He'll be graduating from AMA this year.

His teammates described the 5-foot-7 RJ as "friendly," especially to ladies.

Lining is 38 years old like Django. By the time he was a teenager, he'd become unbeatable in the billiard halls of his hometown, now Calapan City, in Oriental Mindoro.

Popularly known as Nikoy, he took up Marine Technology at the Philippine Maritime Institute before turning to the game full-time. The Asiad title was his 13th major, counting his triumph in the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games. He'd also won in Germany, Chinese-Taipei, Indonesia and Japan.

SWISS WATCH
5

SRI Lanka's Susantika Jayasinghe (right) finishes well ahead of the pack in the women's 100m final of the 14th Asian Games yesterday. Jayasinghe clocked 11.15 seconds. AP

Pinoy bowlers still in contention

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—The gold hunt is not over yet for the country's bowlers in the 14th Asian Games here.

Already the winner of the men's doubles through Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista, bowling is still in contention in the Masters going to today's finals where two gold medals are at stake in the men's and women's divisions.

Biboy Rivera was running fourth and Chester King eighth among the Top 16 players in the men's Masters.

In the women's Masters, Liza Clutario was No. 3 and Liza del Rosario 15th even as action resumes today starting at 9 a.m. The stepladder finals will begin at 1 o'clock.

"We are not ready yet to pack up and leave," said Johnson Cheng, the bowling coach. "Our players are still capable of winning more. Anything can happen tomorrow."

Bowling has produced the most number of medals for the Philippines thus far with four out of the total of 11 after 10 days of action in the 16-day, 44-nation Games.

Bonds shines as Giants set up duel vs Cards

By Paul Newberry
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA—The long wait is over. Barry Bonds is finally a postseason winner.

One of the greatest players in baseball history seized the playoff stage Monday night, homering and scoring the first two San Francisco runs as the Giants held off the Atlanta Braves 3-1 in the decisive Game 5 of the National League division series.

"I feel pretty good right now, you know?" Bonds said. "It's not over yet, I want to win a World Series."

Bonds homered three times in the series. His last one meant the most as San Francisco won the final two games to oust the Braves.

Bonds and the Giants barely hung on. The Braves, no strangers to postseason misery, put runners on first and third with no outs in the ninth.

But Robb Nen struck out Gary Sheffield and then got Chipper Jones to ground into a double play to end it.

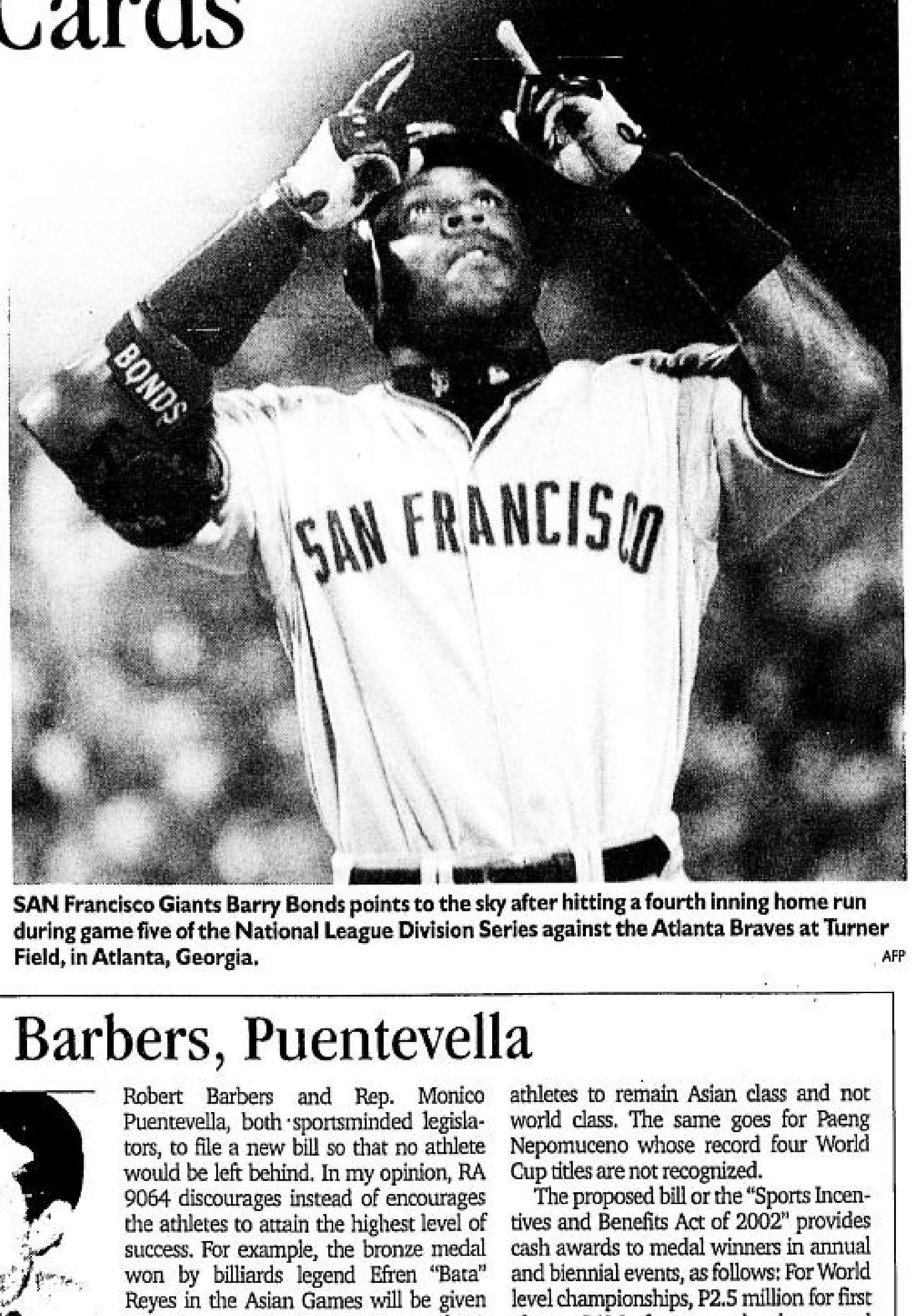
Russ Ortiz earned his second win, sending the wild-card Giants to a matchup against the St. Louis Cardinals in the NL championship series. Game 1 is Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila) at Busch Stadium.

At 38 and in his 17th major league season, Bonds will be trying to reach his first World Series –but he's already exorcised one of his demons.

In five previous trips to the postseason, the last two with San Francisco, his teams were 0-for-5. The four-time NL MVP and home-run king hit just .196 with one homer and six RBIs in those games.

Two of those losses were to the Braves, including a gut-wrenching loss in Game 7 of the 1992 National League Championship Series at old Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium, now the site of a parking lot just across the street from Turner Field. The Braves scored the winning run in that game when Sid Bream beat Bonds' throw from left field in the ninth.

"The Braves have been my nemesis for years," Bonds said.



SAN Francisco Giants Barry Bonds points to the sky after hitting a fourth inning home run during game five of the National League Division Series against the Atlanta Braves at Turner Field, in Atlanta, Georgia. AFP

PBL-Cebu dual tourney slated

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball League-Cebu Basketball Federation (PBL-CBF) Dual Meet goes to Cebu with seven teams–three PBL and four Cebu squads–competing for the title from Oct. 13-22 at the University of San Carlos gym.

PBL Chairman's Cup runner-up Blu All Purpose, Regent-Shark and Montaña will carry on PBL's quest for the crown against four tough CBF teams—Casino Rubbing Alcohol, GMC-Tortillos, Skygo Riders and Cebuana Lhuillier–in the 10-day event.

"This will be a tougher challenge for PBL teams since the Cebuano squads will be going all out to capture the plum on their own turf," said PBL deputy commissioner Tommy Ong.

The seven teams will battle each other in a single round robin series with the top four squads qualifying into the crossover semifinals. In case of ties, quotient system will be applied.

The winners of the crossover semifinal matches will dispute the crown in a sudden-death duel, while the losers will engage in a knockout game for third place.

Blu and Regent-Shark are favored to get into the finals.

The Detergent Kings will parade the intact core of point Lou Gatumbato, Tristan Codamon, hardworking Aries Dimaunahan, Eric de la Cuesta, Arnold Calo and Marlon Legaspi and beefed up by Allan Gamboa.

Regent-Shark will be bannered by shifty pointguard Warren Ybanez and the twin tower of 6-foot-6 Rysal Castro and 6-foot-8 Irvin Sotto, backed up by three-point shooters Ernani Epondulan, Ismael Junio and Cebu homegrown talent Mark Abadia.

Sprewell fined

GREENBURGH, New York—Latrell Sprewell was fined $250,000 Monday by the New York Knicks, who also told him to stay away from the team until he can make "a positive contribution."

Sprewell was punished for failing to tell the team that he injured his shooting hand two weeks before training camp started. He had surgery last week and is out at least six weeks.

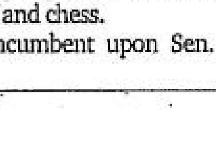
Knicks president Scott Layden met with Sprewell for 20 minutes at the team's practice facility Monday. *AP*

21 days to NBA opening on Oct. 30. Did you know that Kobe Bryant was only 21 years old when he won his first NBA championship with the LA Lakers three years ago? Today, Bryant is the youngest player in the history of the NBA to win three NBA championships

An appeal to Barbers, Puentevella

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



THE STIRRING triumphs of billiards and bowling in the 14th Asian Games in Busan should prod Congress to file another bill that would recognize and grant incentives to the medal winner of these two events which, in the opinion of many, deserve a better deal from this government and should be treated more kindly. After all, it is an established fact that in every country in the world, whatever its political and religious persuasion, the government is responsible for the well-being of its people.

The proposed bill aims to reward achievers in sports just like Republic Act 9064 , but the new bill will not be discriminatory. You see, RA 9064 provides incentives only to athletes whose achievements came in quadrennial competitions (like the Olympics and Asian Games) but nothing is provided for achievers in annual and biennial competitions for non-Olympic sports such as billiards, bowling, golf and chess.

It is therefore incumbent upon Sen. Robert Barbers and Rep. Monico Puentevella, both sportsminded legislators, to file a new bill so that no athlete would be left behind. In my opinion, RA 9064 discourages instead of encourages the athletes to attain the highest level of success. For example, the bronze medal won by billiards legend Efren "Bata" Reyes in the Asian Games will be given incentives under the provisions of RA 9064 while the gold medal he won in the star-studded World Pool 9-Ball Championship in Cardiff, Wales, remains ignored simply because the World Pool tournament is an annual and non-Olympic event. Isn't this ironic? The recognition of Reyes' bronze medal in the Asiad and not his world title in Wales is like telling the athletes to remain Asian class and not world class. The same goes for Paeng Nepomuceno whose record four World Cup titles are not recognized.

The proposed bill or the "Sports Incentives and Benefits Act of 2002" provides cash awards to medal winners in annual and biennial events, as follows: For World level championships, P2.5 million for first place; P1M for second place; and P500,000 for third. For Asian level championships which allow the participation of all Asian countries as well as from Australia and New Zealand; and for other international championships of similar level and prestige held in Europe or the Americas, P1M for first; P500,000 for second and P200,000 for third place.

Tanamor assured of bronze

By Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Light-flyweight Harry Tanamor assured himself of a bronze medal yesterday but light-welterweight Romeo Brin received an expected raw deal from the judges in the 14th Asian Games boxing competitions here.

The 24-year-old Tanamor virtually toyed with his opponent from India in scoring a 21-10 victory that erased the sour taste arising from Brin's defeat at the hands of Pakistan's Asghar Alishah.

The president of the World Boxing Federation, Anwar Chowdry, is a Pakistani and it is the general feeling worldwide that in every international event where a Pakistani boxer is entered, 90 percent of the fight is lost to Chowdry's boy.

"*Para sa bayan ito at masayang-masaya ako* (This is for the country and I'm very happy with the win)," said Tanamor after beating M.d. Ali Qmar thoroughly with consistent body shots and head blows from the first round up to the fourth and last round.

The 24-year-old native of Zamboanga City will next fight a Thai on Oct. 12, seeking a win that would assure him of a silver medal.

A victory for the two-time gold medal winner in Greece and Azerbaijan this year would shove him into a finals appearance against a South Korean on Oct. 14.

Brin wore a long face on his way to the dugout—not because he absorbed telling punches from his Pakistani opponent but because he was not given a chance at all to win the fight.

Right from the very start, the judges were bent on giving the fight to the Pakistani, who raced to an 11-5 advantage after Round 1.

Bizarrely, Brin lost, 31-15.

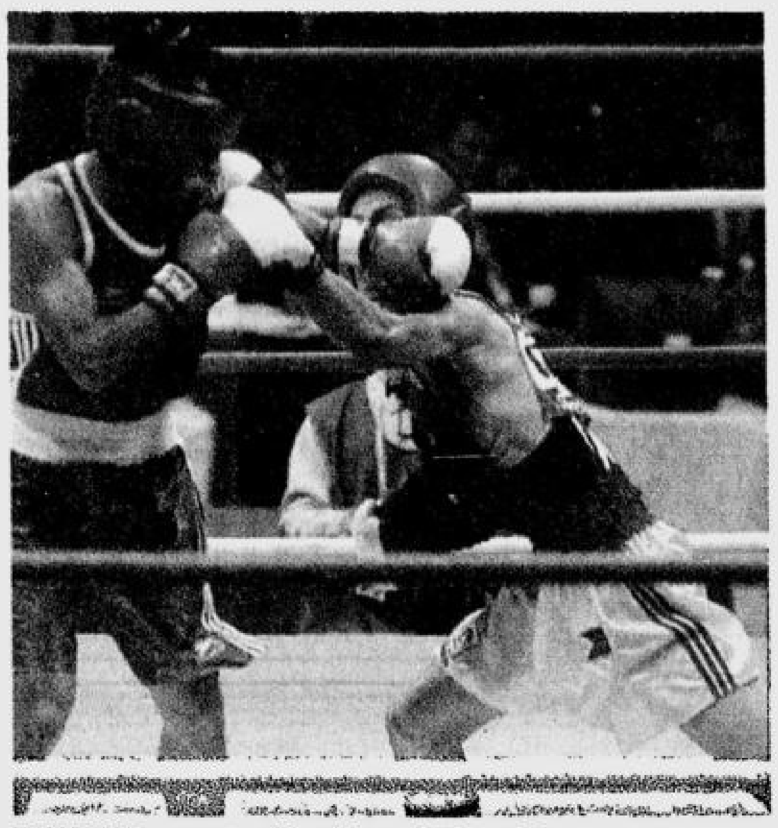
But Boy Velasco, the boxing coach, had the aptest description of the fight: "*Hindi pa nagsusuntukan, may iskor na ang kalaban* (The fight has yet to start, but Brin's opponent was piling up points already).

Of the 12 Pakistanis entered here, 10 have advanced thus far and one of them will meet Filipino middleweight Maraon Golez today.

A win, which is far-fetched, will assure Golez with a bronze medal. To do that, he should floor the Pakistani and next ensure the Pakistani would not stand up again.

Also seeing action today is lightweight Anthony Igusquiza, who will ensure a bronze medal if he beats his foe from Uzbekistan.

A win for Igusquiza, plus Golez if he survives the Pakistani curse, will advance the Filipinos to the semifinals on Oct. 12.



TANAMOR connects with a right to the face of Qamar. JESS YUSON

3 Bs

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BUSAN, South Korea—Two of the 3 Bs have delivered gold medals: billiards and bowling. The third B—boxing—has yet to score. All 3 Bs have been touted to give the country at least two medals.

What's happening?

At least billiards and bowling have one apiece. Fifty percent for each. Not bad. The Asian Games is no picnic. And some politics attended billiards back home; some hocus pocus rigged bowling here—courtesy of the hosts.

OK, you want some details? Got some. Let me see now.

Django Bustamante and Bata Reyes soaked themselves into the world stage and not the pool tables back home. They were never close to Manila's billiards officials. And so, instead of Django and Bata being unleashed in events they are comfortable with, Manila-based bets took their slots.

A bit complicated you think?

Not really. You are the top dog and you don't have Django and Bata under your fold, why give them the bones? Bend a little. But you have your clutch of loyalists with you through thick and thin, cling to them. Butter up to them. Forget outsiders like Django and Bata. What honor will it give you seeing not your wards winning gold medals for the country?

So, Django won one gold with Antonio "Nikoy" Lining. Fine. But Django could have won more had he been fielded in the 9-ball singles, an event he and Bata had won the world crown in separate years. As things turned out, Django was only employed in one event—and he won it with a bang.

In contrast, Bata was in the 8-ball and 3-cushion carom—events that are practically Greek to him. He was lucky he salvaged the bronze in the 8-ball. The 3-cushion carom was never his game.

Had their services been employed to the hilt, we might have won four of the 10 gold medals staked in billiards.

Now to bowling.

The hosts said enough is enough when when Paeng Nepomuceno and RJ Bautista won the men's doubles. They oiled the lanes the next day to a manner that would totally derail the playing style of lefties—Paeng and RJ. Expectedly, Paeng and RJ were ousted in the men's trio. Their total output suffered in the 5-person event and both missed the chance to advance to the Masters finals.

And boxing?

Let me see. Turn off the radio, please. I can't hear the ring announcer. What, we lost again? Oh boy. Don't tell me it's happening once more. Judges kowtowing to Anwar Chowdry, the Pakistani president of the World Boxing Federation. Chowdry's presence in boxing matches is dreaded like the bubonic plague.

Pakistan is in full force here. Twelve boxers in all 12 events.

"They seem to want to win them all," said Pat Gaspi, a boxing coach for the Filipinos.

Two of our boxers lost to Pakistanis via controversial decisions. The bitterest was Violito Payla's case on Monday. Payla was connecting more, throwing more punches, than the Pakistani. He went the way of Christopher Camat, too: a sorry loser.

Before Monday, Payla, the strongest bet to win the gold, won three gold medals and one silver medal in four fights abroad—Cuba, Lithuania, Finland and North Korea. His defeat on Monday reduced the eight boxers to only four going to yesterday's bouts.

In the Asiad, no one can tell what's going to happen.

What more in boxing, an event that is judged unlike billiards and bowling where you are the master of your fate?

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ASIAD ROUNDUP

Japanese hammer champ for 3rd time

By Phil Brown
AP Writer

BUSAN, South Korea—Japan's Koji Murofushi won the hammer throw at the Asian Games again Tuesday. If he does it three more times, he will catch up with his father.

Weightlifters, meanwhile, have made world records an everyday occurrence. China's Tang Gonghong became the sixth lifter to break or tie a world mark in seven women's events, and two men's records have fallen.

An Asian Games gold was something long awaited for Sri Lanka's Susantika Jayasinghe, often the fastest woman sprinter in Asia but never a winner at the games until she won the 100 Tuesday in 11.15 seconds. She also holds a Sydney Olympic bronze in the 200.

Saudi Arabia's Jamal Al-Safaar was the fastest man, edging Japan's Nobuharu Asahara 10.24 to 10.29 in their 100.

China lifted its gold total to 101 without much help from its stars in table tennis, a sport it used to dominate. South Koreans beat Chinese for the women's doubles gold, and eliminated them in the semifinals en route to the men's doubles title.

Chinese divers had no such troubles. World champions Guo Jingjing and Wu Minxia performed more difficult dives and gained higher marks than their rivals as they easily won in women's 3-meter synchronized diving.

14th Asian Games
BUSAN 2002

China also had golds in cycling and shooting.

Tang won in the women's over-75kg weightlifting division, and lifted 167.5 kg in the clean and jerk, breaking the old mark of 165 set by China's Ding Meiyuan at the 2000 Olympics. Tang lifted 120 in the snatch for a total of 287.5.

South Korea, adding cycling and team dressage equestrian victories to its two table tennis golds, improved to 51 gold medals overall.

Japan had 34, including two from cycling Tuesday.

On his 28th birthday, Murofushi threw the hammer 78.72m—15 cm better than the games record he set in 1998 and nearly nine meters better than silver medalist Hiroaki Doi of Japan.

It still was below his year-old Asian record of 83.47, and the world championship silver medalist called his throw OK "for the end of the season."

Murofushi's father, Shigenobu, won the hammer throw for five consecutive Asian Games between 1970 and 1986. His son said he didn't expect to match that, "but I like the challenge."

India won two track and field golds. K.M. Beenamol beat compatriot Madhuri Saxena by 0.77 seconds in the women's 800, and Bahadur Singh Sagoo won the men's shot put.

Saudi Arabia's Hadi S.M. Somayli won the men's 400m hurdles, and Kazakstan's Netalya Torshina won the women's.

In table tennis, women's pair Zhang Yining and Li Nan of China led 3-1 in games but lost the final 9-11, 8-11, 11-8, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9, 12-10 to South Korea's Lee Eun-sil and Seok Eun-mi.

Lee Chul-seung and Ryu Seung-min beat fellow South Koreans Kim Taek-soo and Oh Sang-eun in men's doubles.

Thailand won two gold medals, with Praput Chaithanasakun's 2-0 victory over Myanmar's Kyaw Oo in English billiards singles and Opas Ruengpanyawut's win in men's 25m standard pistol shooting.

Qatar won two in shooting. Masoud Hamad was the individual men's skeet champion and helped his team win gold.

Japan's two cycling golds came from Shinichi Ota, who led a 1-2 Japan finish in the keirin race, and Takashi Kaneko in the men's sprint.

China's Li Na won the women's sprint, and South Koreans Suh Seok-kyu and Cho Ho-sung defeated Japan's Makoto Iijima and Shinichi Fukushima 38-11 in points in the men's Madison race. Both those teams finished a lap ahead of the rest of the field.

adidas 14th Asian Games medal tally

COUNTRY	G	S	B	TOTAL
China	103	49	43	195
South Korea	52	54	57	163
Japan	35	53	42	130
Kazakhstan	12	10	16	38
N. Korea	7	9	11	27
Thailand	7	8	3	18
Uzbekistan	7	7	10	24
Chinese Taipei	6	8	18	32
India	6	5	6	17
Singapore	4	2	3	9
Hong Kong	3	3	7	13
Saudi	3	0	0	3
Iran	2	6	11	19
Malaysia	2	5	4	11
Philippines	2	3	6	11
Qatar	2	3	1	6
Vietnam	2	2	3	7
Indonesia	1	5	5	11
Turkmenistan	1	2	1	4
Mongolia	1	1	10	12
Bahrain	1	1	2	4
Sri Lanka	1	1	0	2
Lebanon	1	0	1	2
Myanmar	0	4	5	9
Kyrgyzstan	0	3	4	7
Tajikistan	0	2	1	3
United Arab Emirates	0	2	1	3
Pakistan	0	1	5	6
Bangladesh	0	1	0	1
Syrian Arab Republic	0	0	1	1
Kuwait	0	0	1	1

*As of 8 p.m.

5-day racefest at MJC

THE Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc. stages the inaugural "Race for Life" fund-raising racefest starting tonight at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Proceeds of the project is principally intended to be used for the construction of "The Haven for Children," a temporary refuge facility for destitute children who live in the streets of Metro Manila.

"In behalf of the members of the CSFI, we are truly grateful to the Manila Jockey Club and the local horse racing industry for giving us an innovative and exciting venue to raise funds for the benefit of our street children," said CSFI president Gina de Venecia.

"It is an honor of the MJCI to be a part of this noteworthy undertaking," said Alfonso Reyno, Jr., president and chief executive of the MJCI.

Highlight of the five-day racefest is the running of the P1-million Speaker Jose de Venecia Cup on Oct. 13 to be backed by a long line of top money stakes and special handicap races.

Two-time Horse of the Year Wind Blown is among those declared to compete in the Speaker's Cup set over 2,050 meters. Among the challengers by Batangas Entry, Staunch Ally and Lyonnais.

The other major races in the card are Congressional Spouses Foundation Cup and the House of Representatives Cup, which have been tentatively set for Oct. 12.

Major backers of the "Race for Life" racefest include the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Department of Public Works and Highways, PLDT Company and Smart Communications.

First Gentleman golf circuit kicks off

PROFESSIONALS competing in the forthcoming First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit need not worry about the high cost of island-to-island transport when the series, set to kick off next week at Sta. Elena, gets to its southern grind.

In a major sponsorship boost to the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's revival of the pro circuit ,WG&A Philippines has agreed to provide free sea transportation for the local pros to and from the event in the Visayas and Mindanao.

A companion of the pro, whether his regular caddie or a family member, shall also be entitled to 50 percent discount from the tariff rate.

The Memorandum of Agreement was recently signed by WG&A's senior vice president and COO for passage Rafael L. Sanvictores.

"This is such a tremendous help to our members especially those from the south since it virtually cuts their expenses for the whole tour into half or probably more," said Jun Bustamante, president of the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines.

Bustamante said that with the heavy load of traveling money taken off their back, the pros will be driven to play their best and go for the championship in every leg.

Six of the 12 legs of the First Gentleman's Circuit will be held in the south with stops in Iloilo (Sta. Barbara), Cagayan de Oro (Pueblo del Oro), Bacolod (Marapara), Davao (Rancho Palos Verdes), Zamboanga and Cebu (Alta Vista).

Most of the top guns of the Tour are based in the south including Cassius Casas, Antonio Lascuna, Cesar Ababa and Elmer Salvador who hail from Davao, Richard Sinfuego who traces his roots to Iloilo and brothers Rodrigo and Rodolfo Cuello who are both from Bacolod.

The circuit, a joint undertaking among the PGAP, the First Gentleman Foundation Inc. and the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc., fires off at the exclusive Sta. Elena Golf Club course on Oct. 15-18.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

Baseball: MLB Championship Series American League Championship Series Game #1(L); 03:00:00; 09-Oct-02; 11:00

Bowling: Ladies Pro Bowlers Tour Professional Women'S Bowling Association Pittsburgh, PA USA (R); 01:00:00; 09-Oct-02; 12:00

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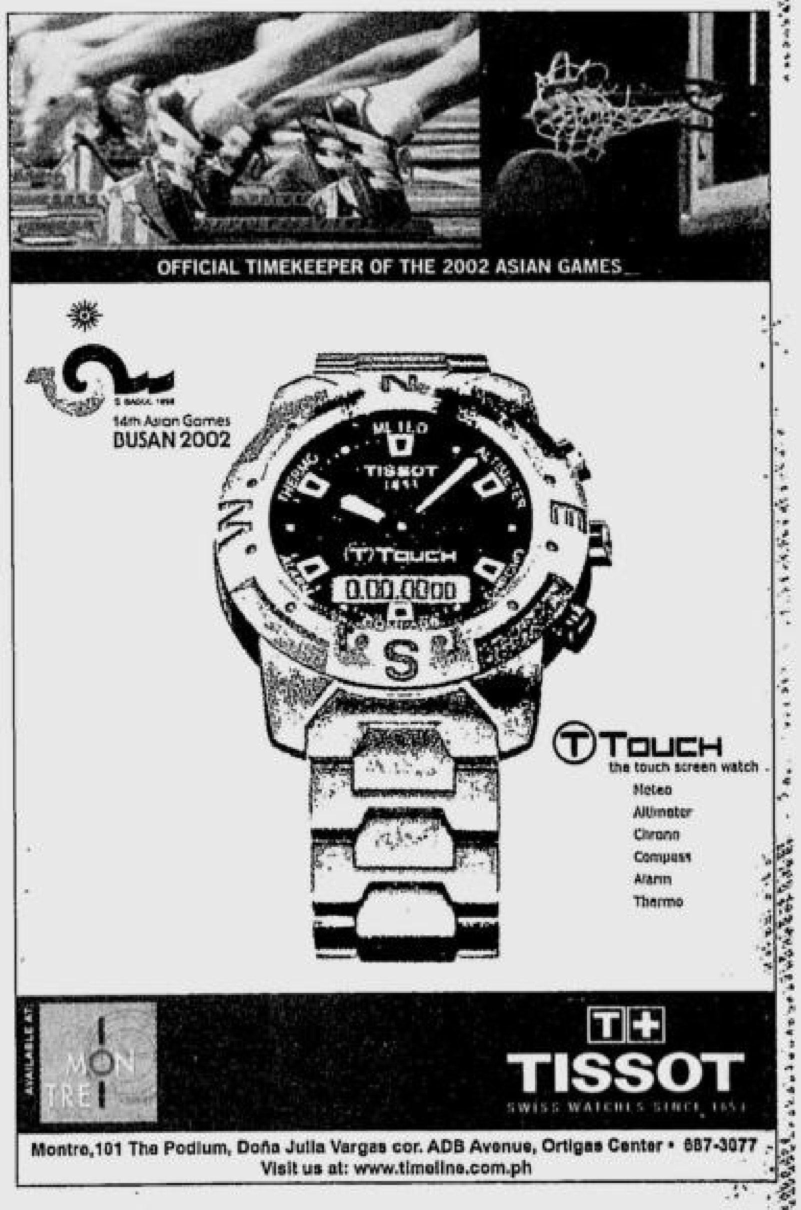
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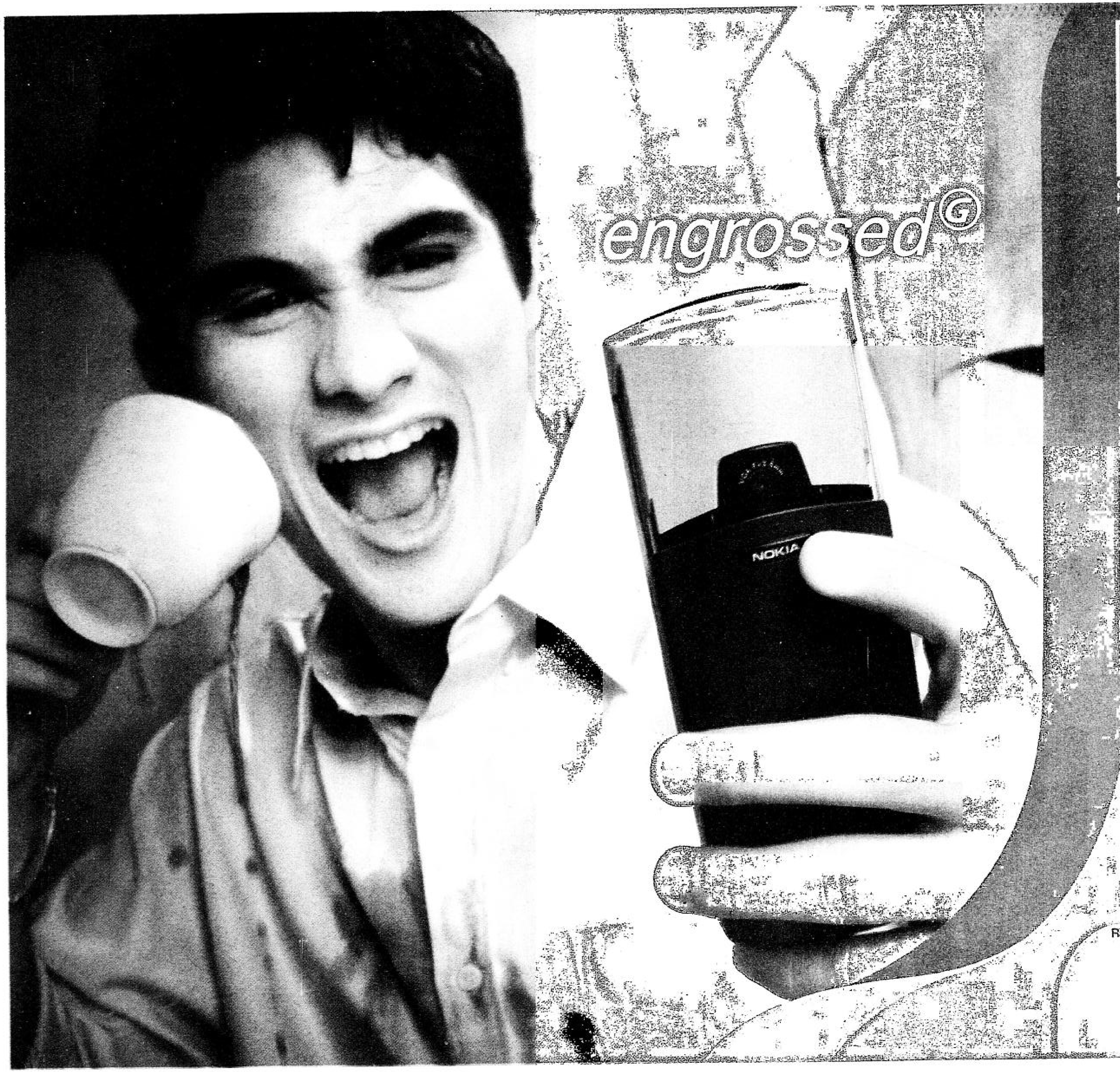
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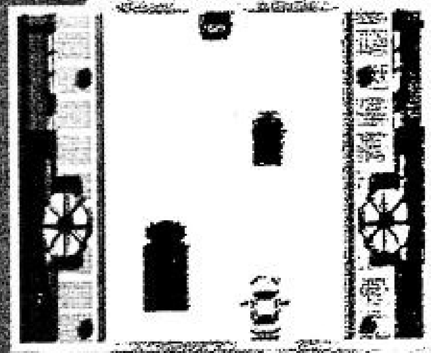

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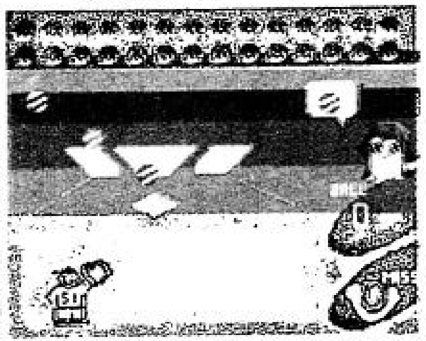

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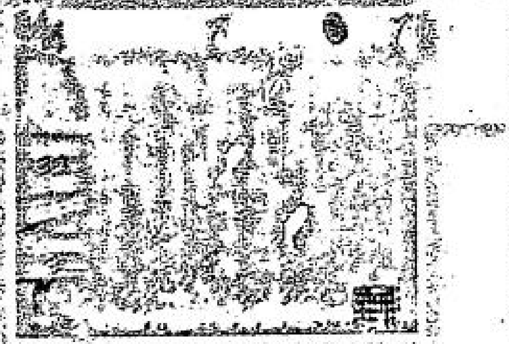

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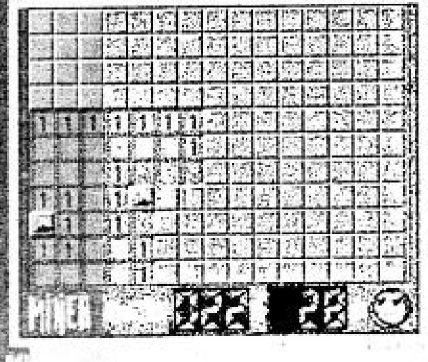
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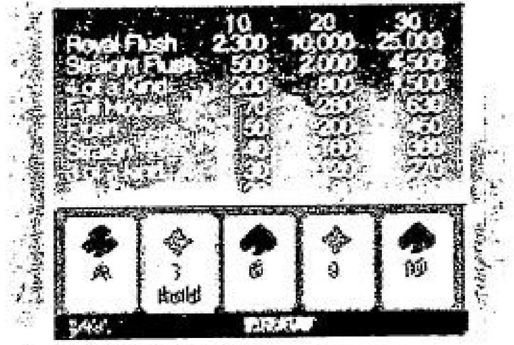
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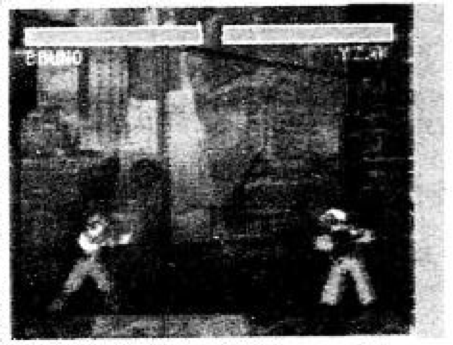

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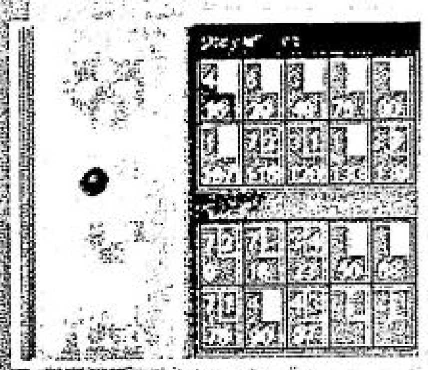

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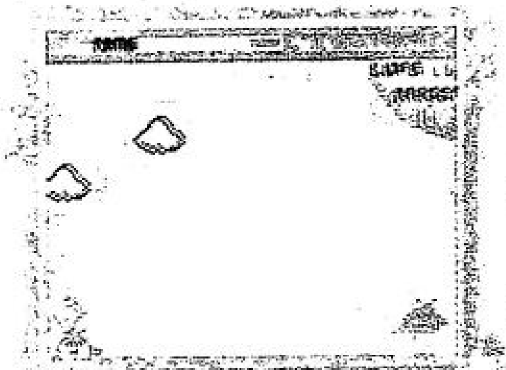

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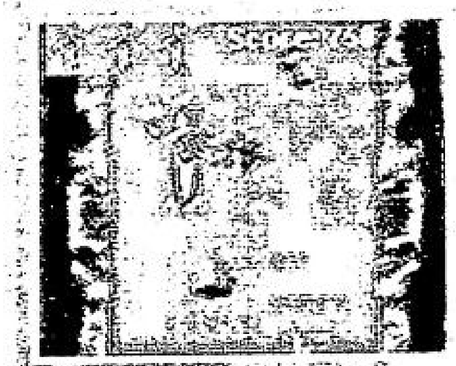

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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

Cop 'war': 3 WPD men arrested by NCRPO

By Philip C. Tubeza

SIMMERING hostility between Manila policemen and their counterparts in the National Capital Region Police Office ratcheted up a notch when NCRPO lawmen arrested three Manila traffic men Monday night allegedly for extorting money from motorists.

The Manila traffic policemen yesterday slammed NCRPO lawmen for arresting SPO3 Alfredo Samson, SPO2 Francisco Ignacio, and PO3 Emmanuel Villena at the corner of P. Ocampo Street and Roxas Boulevard in Ermita, at around 10:30 p.m.

The Manila policemen accused the NCRPO of "trying to get back at them" by leveling charges of extortion on their colleagues.

The alleged arrests came two days after 20 NCRPO lawmen allegedly beat up a Manila traffic policeman and his nephew in Tondo.

On Sunday, a shootout nearly erupted between NCRPO lawmen and Manila policemen inside the Mary Johnston Hospital in Tondo.

On Monday night, the NCRPO's Counter-Intelligence Support Unit allegedly arrested Samson, Ignacio and Villena after they allegedly received P40 in marked money.

Two other traffic policemen, SPO3 Feliciano Arcival and PO3 Vivencio Rosero, allegedly escaped and reported to the Western Police District's General Assignment Section that heavily armed men abducted their three colleagues.

The report showed that unidentified men with high-caliber firearms forced Samson, Ignacio, and Villena, in an unmarked Mitsubishi L-300 van.

COPS/ A26

'Give new system a chance'

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday appealed to congressmen opposing the transfer of control of policemen from the National Police Commission to the mayors of Metro Manila to "give the new system a chance."

But Atienza said that the new system should be given a chance to work.

"Let us see if there are changes," he said. "The old system was not effective. Let's give the new system a chance to work."

Valenzuela Rep. Magtanggol Gunigundo, head of the National Capital Region congressional bloc, said on Monday that the 26 metro congressmen opposed the plan because it violates the Constitution.

Gunigundo also said that they would block efforts to amend the Philippine National Police Law to bring back control over the police to local executives.

Atienza, president of the Metro Manila Mayor's League, earlier said he and his fellow mayors would lobby for changes in the PNP Law.

He said they eventually want to have the power to "hire and fire" policemen.

A source said the opposing congressmen do not want

GIVE/ A26

■ BARE EYE: Django's gold, a people's triumph, also a winning mistake /A26

WAZZZZUP?

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Cowboy Grill 431 Remedios St. Malate	MOODZ HEARTBEAT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill Novaliches, Quezon City	HIMIG PRYZM	GABRIELA & THE RYTHMIX OCT. 12 ☎ 936.9757
Live Station	BIKINI OPEN #44 WEST AVE., Q.C.	MOONSTRUCKS OCT. 10 ☎ 373. 5677
Sound Stage Cainta	ANIMAE	CUT THIS AD FOR A FREE PIÑACOLADA ☎ 682.9359/61
Tia Maria's Jupiter St. Makati City	VIEW BRAZEN	SOUTH BORDER OCT. 15 ☎ 890.4735
Tia Maria's Remedios, Malate	3RD DEGREE VERSE 2	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 522.0429

OUTSIDE METRO MANILA

Venue	Band	Info
Cowboy Grill Biñan, Laguna	PHYRIGIAN STREETLIFE	HUNGHUNKS OCT. 22 ☎ (049)511.7268
The Summit The Royal Mandaya Hotel J. Palma Gil, Davao City	FRESHMEN OCT. 1-12	FUNNY WOMEN OCT.12 TUE THRU SAT. 9PM ☎ (082)225.8888

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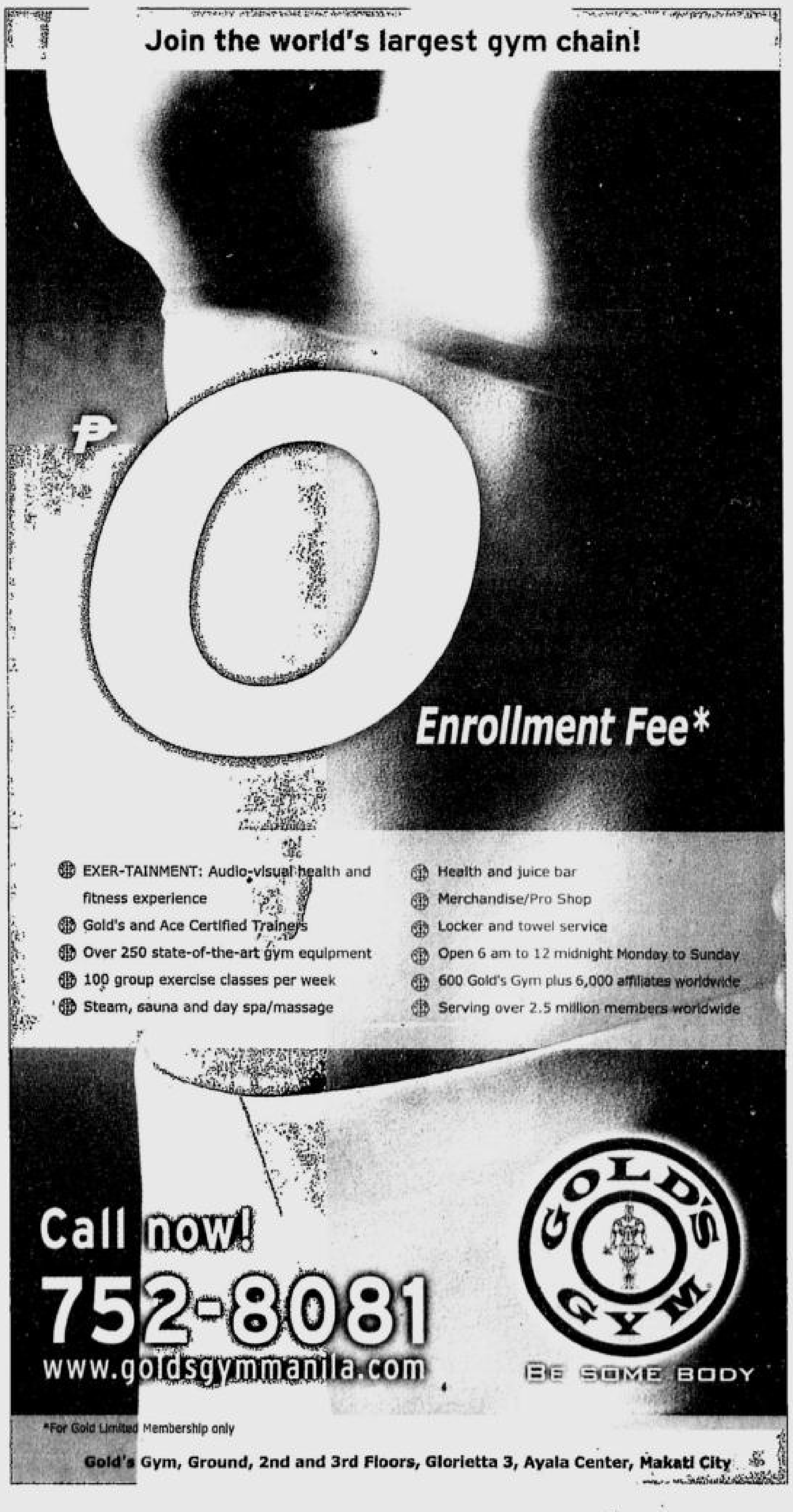

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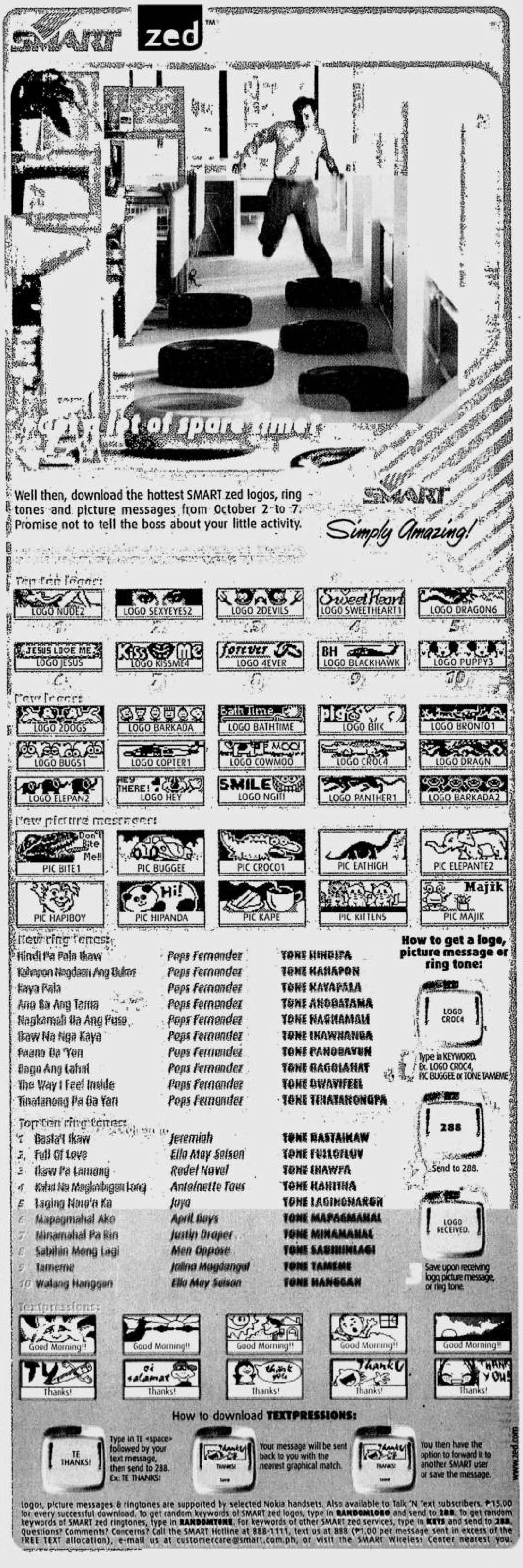

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Bago Ang Lahat	Pops Fernandez	TONE BAGOLAHAT
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4	Kahit Na Magkaibigan Lang	Antoinette Taus	TONE KAHITNA
5	Laging Nara'n Ka	Jaya	TONE LAGINGNAROH
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Django's gold a people's triumph, also a winning mistake

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

BUSAN—Victory, indeed, has many fathers. And it goes without saying that the monumental victory of our billiards doubles team in the 9-ball final here will get many other family names. Which is fine.

All our sports officials, put in the entire nation, too, could in fact claim they were party to the triumph.

But let's leave it to Django Bustamante, undisputably the big hero in the team-up that landed the lone gold for the Philippines in billiards, to say his piece.

It was his Mt. Everest, Django swore.

No, Django did not exactly say that. But the one-time pool teacher in Germany and now our top touring pro claimed he had never been through a more excruciating test. And this, no doubt, included his gripping and very dramatic stint in Cardiff where he crawled all the way to the World Pool Championship finals with a broken heart following the death of his youngest daughter in Manila during the tournament quarterfinals.

***

Nikoy Lining naturally got lionized after he took the final winning shot on an awkwardly placed 9-ball to the right corner pocket. Filipinos inside the Dongju College gym, which is carved out on top of a stiff mountain, erupted in delirium.

It was a shot he was oh very afraid to take. Tension gripped Nikoy. He was as white as a sheet. But he had no choice. With the click of the final ball, Django jumped from his seat, shrieked Nikoy's name and tightly gathered Lining around his arm, suddenly regaining a brother he had lost in battle.

In the end, though, nobody had to ask who ably, and almost singlehandedly, saved the day to plant the Philippine flag at the peak of the Dongju mountains.

Django did not have the Korean duo on the table as his only opponents. The entire hall, filled with Korean spectators, including a battalion of wildly chanting, flag-waving students, tried time and again to shoo and unsettle Django.

The fire alarm inside the gym inexplicably shrilled when Django was aiming for a crucial shot in the homestretch. There was a mini-stampede. He nevertheless pocketed. A male voice, of Korean accent, shouted out loud when Django was aiming for the next ball. Django scored.

Then, again, while Django was deeply bent for the kill in the same rack, the gym fire alarm sounded again.

***

Well, Koreans will always be Koreans. They will never hesitate to display wrong-footed patriotic passion in a shameless bid to have their national flag raised proudly in any battle.

Lining, groping cold at the start, finally found his native sharpness when it was most needed. But Django simply proved indestructible. He refused to be shoved and shaken.

He won it for the country in the doubles which, he reluctantly admitted before the final match, was not his event.

He always felt listless and awkward playing the doubles, he confided. (*"Nawawala po ang init."*)

He did not like the event, but he said he had no choice.

He also reasoned he could no longer complain and asked for a re-assignment because he was included in the lineup only upon a clamor of his countrymen. (*"Inilagay po ako dito ng ating mga kababayan."*)

***

Django was so unanimous a choice he was named to carry the national flag in the Asiad opening-day parade. (He could go down as the only Pinoy flag man to have brought home a gold.)

Which clearly meant that, with Django's popular inclusion, the gold-medal triumph in the Asiad nine-ball pool doubles was also a result of People Power.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit later said it was a turn-around win that could usher greater results for the national delegation.

Let's see. So how many times should we give this sensational gold medal which, all of a sudden, is being claimed by assorted fathers?

How many names does this monumental victory deserve?

1) Django's Mt. Everest. 2) People Power Gold. 3) Turn-around Triumph.

All sounded cute and valid. But, let's see. A deeper review of pre-Asiad run-ins would readily bare that the billiards gold was clearly a main product of blind political (and economical?) accommodation. In short, a big mistake.

Why? Didn't Django himself say he would have been much more sure of a gold if he had been entered in the 9-ball singles, where he's a celebrated world power?

Our billiards officials had a problem and they solved it by making a mistake. Now, it appears that Django's Everest, the Turn-around Triumph, or the People Power Gold, is unmistakably a Winning Mistake.

Pasay, too, wants to sell Naia

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PASAY government has jumped into the controversy over realty taxes between Parañaque and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA).

Pasay Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad yesterday said that the city would also place on the auction block the country's premier airport and three other pieces of government property next month for alleged non-payment of realty taxes.

Trinidad said the PEA owes the city government about P1.2 billion, the Light Rail Transit (LRT) about P500 million, the Metro Railway Transit (MRT) about P100 million, and the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) about P800 million.

"The papers are already with the (city) treasurer's office," he told the INQUIRER.

"We will hold the auction by November," he added.

The move is expected to complicate the rift between Parañaque and the MIAA for the airport authority's refusal to pay its supposed tax liabilities of about P722 million.

The Naia property cuts across cities of Pasay and Parañaque and both local governments have not established the boundaries.

Trinidad said a major part of the country's premier airport is located in Pasay which explains the slight disparity between the supposed tax liabilities Pasay and Parañaque are demanding from the MIAA.

But like Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez, Trinidad said he was also willing to negotiate with the MIAA, PEA, and LRT and MRT administrations to settle the issue.

LRT management, according to Trinidad, has been regularly in touch with the Pasay government and has been paying its obligations "little by little."

But Trinidad said the LRT management is disputing the city government's tax estimate, claiming the liability amounts to only P150 million.

It also proposed to pay its obligations at the rate of P5 million yearly, the Pasay City mayor said.

"Of course, I can't agree with their proposal," Trinidad said.

"Our grandchildren won't see the full payment anymore."

MMDA cleans flyovers that get flooded

By Leila B. Salaverria

GARBAGE is the culprit in the mysterious flooding of several flyovers in Metro Manila.

The Metro Manila Development Authority made this discovery on Monday after it began inspecting and cleaning several flyovers in the metropolis.

"As usual, it's garbage," said MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna, who supervises the flood control operations.

Lacuna said MMDA teams have already started cleaning the Tandang Sora flyover of the rubbish that has clogged the flyover's drainage.

The flooding of flyovers has baffled MMDA officials and motorists.

"Where else can you see flyovers being flooded?" said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

"It's not something that normally occurs. The MMDA has already sent personnel to study the matter."

He said that the Alabang viaduct in Muntinlupa City and the flyovers in Ortigas and in Kamuning and Tandang Sora in Quezon City have been reported to get flooded during heavy rainfall, prompting the MMDA to investigate the flooding, which usually does not happen on flyovers.

Lacuna himself was amazed at the flooding, but said that the MMDA would clean the drainage of the flyovers to prevent the flooding.

"Only in the Philippines can you see flooded flyovers," he said. "But we have no recourse but to clean them so that flooding will be eliminated."

The flooding in the flyovers has also slowed down the flow of traffic, so the problem really has to be checked, Vergel de Dios said.

The task of solving Metro Manila's mammoth flood problem has been transferred to the MMDA shortly after Bayani Fernando was appointed as MMDA chair. The MMDA, is also in charge of the metropolis' garbage disposal, traffic control and urban planning.

'NBI men' take 2 PUP students

By Philip C. Tubeza

TWO STUDENTS of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and the owner of a canteen were kidnapped by men who introduced themselves as members of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force, police said.

Canteen owner Omar Rentuza, 28, of Taytay, Rizal, and the two students who were not immediately identified were abducted inside the PUP campus in Manila on Monday afternoon, according to a report at the Western Police District Station 8 in Sta. Mesa.

But police said the unidentified men who took Rentuza and the two students were not lawmen because they did not coordinate their "operation" with WPD Station 8.

The men arrived at the PUP campus about 3 p.m. Monday and used three Mitsubishi L-300 vans (WJR-142, WJP-144, and SEV-187) in the abduction, police said.

The men were able to enter the campus by introducing themselves as NBI and PAOCTF members, police said.

One of the suspects introduced himself as an Insp. Segundo Babali, police said.

Police said the men then herded the three into one of the vans.

SUSPECT Ciriaco gets sewn up.

VAL HANDUMON

Hostage man yields to mayor

By Christian V. Esguerra

PARAÑAQUE Mayor Joey Marquez had a scary birthday Monday afternoon when he talked a 17-year-old suspected robber into releasing his hostage, an 11-year-old girl, in a city market.

Hours after he celebrated his 42nd birthday at city hall, Marquez went to the public market when he heard that a teenage robber tried to shake off pursuing policemen by taking hostage Joana Mae Bartolo, 11.

The young man snatched Bartolo at gunpoint when policemen ran after him after he and a certain Abu held up an owner-type jeep on Dr. A. Santos Avenue in Sucat at around 4 p.m., investigation showed.

After robbing Rodrigo Barlaan, 38, and James Cervantes, 33, the suspects shot Cervantes in the buttocks and in the back of the head, police said.

Members of the Drug Enforcement Unit witnessed the incident and began trading shots with the suspects, police said.

The 17-year-old suspect boarded a passenger jeepney and took the young Bartolo when he saw that the policemen were after him.

VICTIM JOANA May.

He took the girl inside a rice stall at the Berville Market in Villanueva Village, police said.

Marquez arrived and managed to convince the young suspect to surrender 30 minutes later.

'Give new system a chance'

From page A25

their mayors to get political mileage from the new set-up.

"This is especially true of congressmen who don't see eye to eye with their mayors," the source said. "They should go beyond their selfish political interests."

The source said Manila would continue to lobby Congress to change the law, adding that Manila's congressmen are not opposing the President's memo.

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla on Sunday questioned the President's memorandum order giving the metro mayors control and supervision of the police.

"If indeed this memorandum order would be for everybody's benefit, then why did Malacañang limit it to only the 17 mayors of Metro Manila when the laws that were the bases of this order were supposed to be national in scope?" Padilla asked.

He cautioned the government about implementing the order, explaining that "going beyond the provisions of the Constitution and other pertinent laws would be considered unlawful."

With a report from Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Burėau

COMABIG (left) and Vizcarra get sentenced.

ERIK ARAZAS

Death for hoe killer of cousin; life for woman recruiter

By Leila B. Salaverria

A MAN was sentenced to death for killing a cousin and a woman was meted out a life sentence for illegal recruitment yesterday, both in Makati City.

Ricardo S. Comabig was sentenced to death for killing his cousin Romeo Solares, while Wilma Vizcarra received a life term for engaging in illegal recruitment.

Judge Ricardo Rosario of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 66 found Comabig, 31, foreman of the Philippine Racing Club, guilty of killing his sleeping cousin with a hoe.

On Jan. 27, 2001, Comabig had to carry his drunken cousin Solares, also a PRC employee, to his quarters after they spent the whole night drinking with witness Edwin Portuga and other coworkers at the PRC compound.

Portugal testified that he followed the two to Solares' quarters and there he saw Comabig hitting Solares with a hoe while the latter slept. Portugal told his companions about the incident.

He also told the court that Comabig had a grudge against his cousin.

Comabig said he only killed Solares in self-defense because the latter tried to stab him.

In the second case, Judge Ricardo Rosario of Makati RTC Branch 66 sentenced Vizcarra to life imprisonment and fined her P500,000 plus P150,000 in damages.

Vizcarra, alias Wilma Lingad, and her brother Froilan Vizcarra, who remains at large, were charged with large scale illegal recruitment for misrepresenting themselves and recruiting three people for overseas employment without a license from the Department of Labor and Employment.

As the decision was being read, Vizcarra kept on sobbing, and then collapsed. Policemen had to carry the sobbing Vizcarra out of the courtroom.

The complainants were identified as Leticia D. Padua, Sylvia M. Wanta and Josephine T. Riguer.

In April 1997, Vizcarra promised Wanta and Riguer that she could secure jobs for them in Dubai with help from Vizcarra's brother Froilan, who has been working at a fastfood outlet in Dubai for five years.

Vizcarra demanded money from the complainants to pay for photocopying and faxing documents, as well as placement fees. But despite the payments, Wanta and Riguer were unable to leave for Dubai.

Padua also had the same experience with Vizcarra, who only transmitted part of her placement fee to Dubai.

Cop 'war'. . .

From page A25

Manila policemen only later learned that their colleagues were actually arrested by the NCRPO.

"It was a set-up," said a policeman at the WPD Traffic Enforcemet Office. "They were trying to get back at us."

He said that tension between the NCRPO and the WPD-TEO began last Friday, when more than 20 policemen from the NCRPO's Regional Intelligence and Special Operations Office allegedly beat up and shot SPO4 Alfredo B. Vitan of the Manila Police and his nephew Rizaldy, 26.

The policeman said Rizaldy had asked for help from his uncle after the NCRPO men, who were in civilian clothes, pointed their guns at him on Concha Street in Tondo, Manila.

When Vitan, his nephew, and Barangay Chair Ely Almiro went to Concha Street, the NCRPO lawmen opened fire on them.

Vitan introduced himself as a policeman, and a Senior Insp. Romulo Salamat of the NCRPO disarmed him.

Then the NCRPO men allegedly beat up Vitan and his nephew, the police source said. The victims were later taken to the Mary Johnston Hospital.

On Sunday, a shootout nearly erupted at the hospital when NCRPO policemen tried to arrest Vitan.

Armed members of the NCRPO's Risoo and Special Action Force tried to arrest Vitan while members of the WPD-TEO, the Manila mobile patrol unit, and members of WPD Stations 1 and 2 tried to prevent them.

"How will you arrest (Vitan) when he is still recuperating from the blows he suffered?" according to the Manila traffic policeman.

Luckily, the police source said, cooler heads prevailed and prevented what could have been a free-for-all inside the hospital.

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5 FRAILTY
6 MR. DEEDS
7 THE TOUCH

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THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
THE TUXEDO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Donita, Piolo recall their 'past'

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

PIOLO Pascual and **Donita Rose** consider "9 Mornings," their first movie together, as a reunion of sorts. The two stars had come from **German Moreno**'s "That's Entertainment."

Star Cinema gambled in pairing Piolo and Donita for the first time on the big screen. Surprisingly, the two stars light up the screen with their chemistry.

"While we were filming the movie, we recalled our fond memories of our days in 'That's'," Donita shares. "When I learned I would be doing a movie with Piolo, I became excited. I'd like to think we worked well together in this movie."

The **Joey Javier Reyes** movie was written by Reyes himself in collaboration with **Ton Sison.** Piolo plays Gene, an emotionless yuppie who falls for the beautiful pre-school teacher Elise. They meet in one of the most unlikely places, a church, while attending the traditional nine-day dawn masses during Christmastime.

"Their wholesome images blend well with the family-oriented storyline," Joey says of his lead stars.

"9 Mornings" fosters age-old Filipino customs like the simbang-gabi. The film is made all the more poignant by its Christmas setting and the soundtrack full of Yuletide songs.

Hairdressers' Day

BEAUTY expert **Ricky Reyes** finds fulfillment not just in his many charity causes, like visiting the juvenile cancer ward of the Philippine General Hospital or donating goods to the slums of Tondo. Every year, he also holds Hairdresser's Day, a competition for salon owners, professional and aspiring haircutters and even students.

This year, Hairdressers' Day will be held tomorrow at the Philippine Trade Training Center on Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

"There are many skilled hairdressers who work in small neighborhood parlors who should also be given a chance to shine," Ricky maintains.

"I do this project to allow them to take part in a big event and display their talent."

The tilt is a much awaited event among hairdressers in Metro Manila and draws a big number of participants, according to Ricky.

There are no requirements and those who wish to witness the event simply have to buy a ticket for P100.

The winners will get to display banners or streamers in their parlors announcing their awards from the competition.

The event gives away a cash prize of P10,000 in each category. The champion will be the country's representative in an international hair competition sponsored by Fil-Hair.

The competition will start as early as 7 a.m.

Gina de Venecia, wife of Speaker **Joe de Venecia**, will be the special guests in Hairdresser's Day.

Gina will also assist Ricky in inducting the new officers of Fil-Hair Coop, one of the most successful organizations of salon owners and haircutters in the country which Ricky heads.

Gina is a member of Fil-Hair's board of advisers, with former First Lady **Amelita Ramos**, First Gentleman **Mike Arroyo**, Senators **Ramon Magsaysay Jr.**, **Francis Pangilinan** and **Frank Drilon.**

Guests from Korea, Japan, Taipei, Thailand and Hong Kong will judge the competition.

For details, call 725-4959 or 725-1880.

SHARING "9 MORNINGS." Piolo Pascual and Donita Rose team-up for the first time on the big screen.

REYES. Gives chance to aspiring haircutters.

Europe rendezvous

WHEN everyone was not looking, **Ruffa Gutierrez** quietly left the country to join her Turkish boyfriend, **Yilmaz Bektas**, in a five-day rendezvous in Europe.

Ruffa had five days to spare after she did her pictorial for GMA 7's newest soap, "Habang Kapiling Ka."

Starting Oct. 12, she will tape for the series, directed by **Maryo J. de los Reyes.** It will replace "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin."

Even if her mom, **Annabelle Rama**, was against it, Ruffa, who is now 27, took a late-night Lufthansa flight to Germany. From there she will fly to Paris and then to London. Whew! Such a breathtaking journey just to see her boyfriend.

Tita Annabelle said it only took one phone call from Yilmaz to make Ruffa pack her bags and fly to Europe.

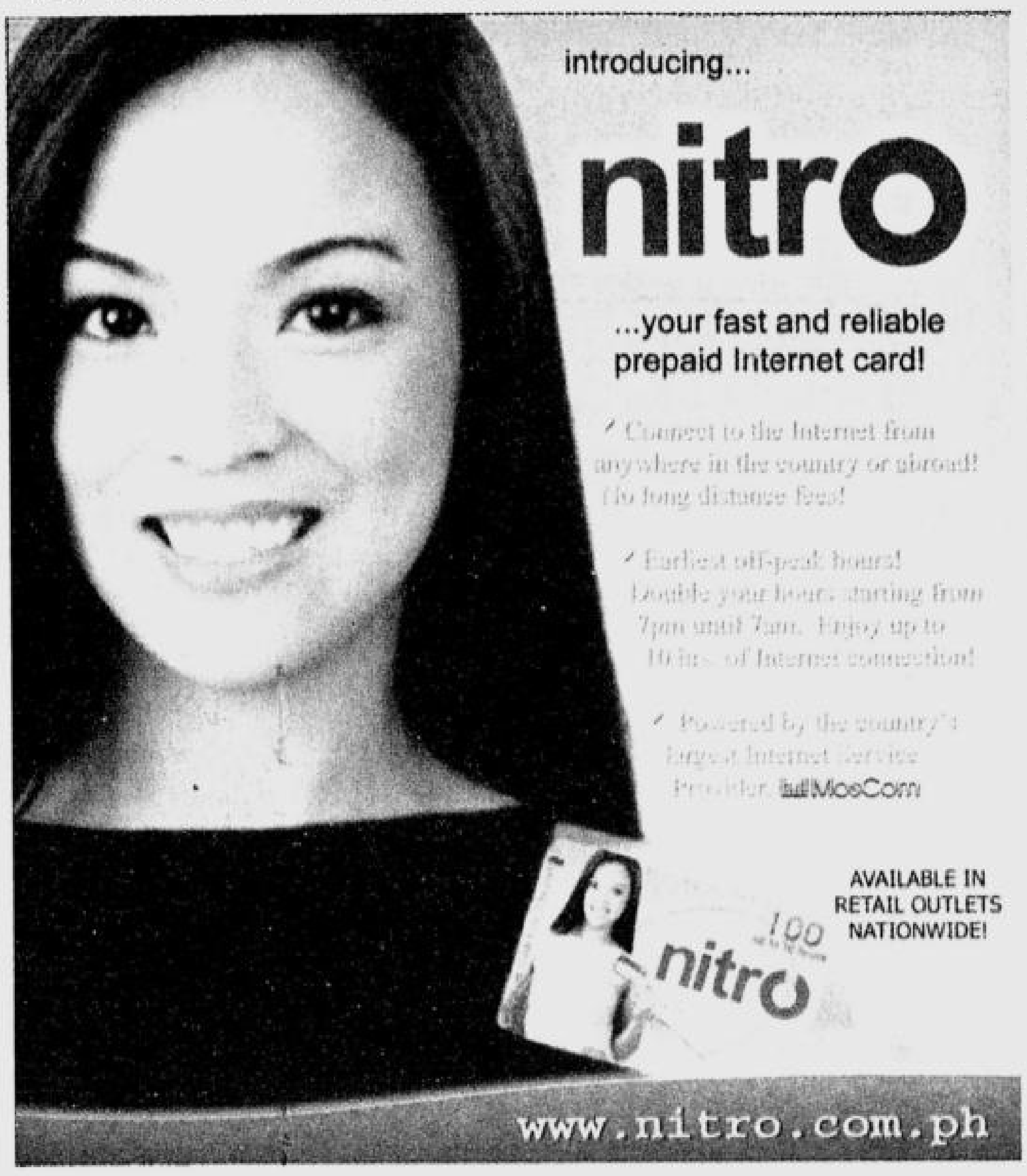
When Yilmaz learned she had five free days, he made Ruffa take the first available flight to Europe to join him.

If that's not love, we don't know what is.

Make-up artist **Wendy** of Ricky Reyes' One-on-One parlor in Greenhills, said that during Ruffa's pictorial, the actress looked every inch a princess, with her chic wardrobe and glittering jewelry.

Ruffa is the image model of Gandang Ricky

DONITA/A31



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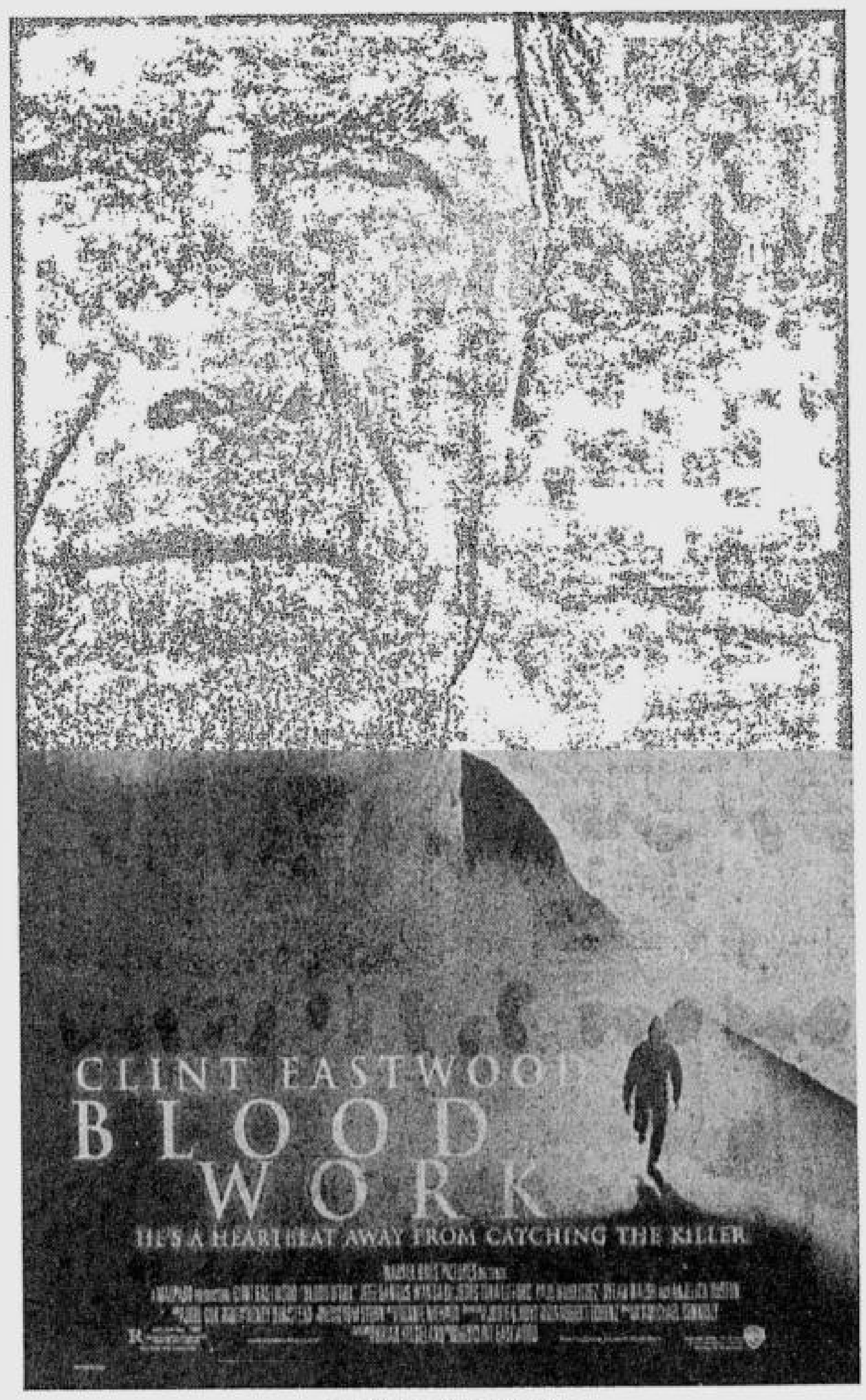

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Innovations in showbiz

THE CHALLENGING entertainment times have forced some producers to stage a strategic withdrawal, until better days encourage their return. Others make-do with revivals and reissues, which require minimal out-of-pocket expense. Still others, however, are less defeatist or cautious, and have instead tried to think up fresh ways to attract audiences to their production.

Ogie Alcasid's recent Araneta Coliseum show is one such innovative extravaganza. The conventional wisdom is that Ogie is not one of our top singing stars, so he shouldn't topbill a big show in such a huge venue.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

But the people who put up the show thought "out of the box" and realized that Ogie had more than just his popularity as a singer going for him. In fact, he was equally popular as a TV host-comedian and composer of numerous pop hits. So, they put together all of Ogie's strengths and came up with a smash hit.

Aiza Seguerra also thought up an innovative twist to her latest concert: the "tomboy" singer wore a gown in some numbers. Naturally, people were curious about how she would look in that unfamiliar costume, and this made her show a big draw.

To her credit, Aiza didn't lose her focus when she appeared onstage in a gown, and in fact handled herself quite delicately. And, oh, how her fans loved her for it.

The next big twist on the show biz horizon is **Lani Misalucha**'s upcoming show—no, not at the Araneta Coliseum or Music Museum, but aboard Star Cruises Superstar Leo Leisure Vessel.

The special show, "See You on Board, Lani" will be held on Oct. 28 in the ship's Moulin Rouge theater. The luxury liner's destination from Oct. 27 to 30 is Hong Kong, Sanyo (China), Holong Bay (Vietnam), then back to Hong Kong.

The idea is for patrons to go on the four-day cruise, the entertainment highlight of which is Lani's special shows. If this catches on, and we think it will, other big entertainment stars could also avail of the new performing venue that Lani's show has opened up for local show biz stars.

Many Filipino entertainers have been performing in international luxury liners lounges and theaters, but they have tended to be non-star. Lani's show has effectively upped the ante, and we hope that other star singers will follow suit.

The upcoming concert's major sponsors are Star Cruises and Philippine Air Lines, Lanis's official carrier to Hong Kong, which recently launched Mabuhay Miles, its new Frequent Flyer program.

'Dark Angel'

ACE film director **James Cameron** ("Titanic", etc.) shifts his attention to television with "Dark Angel," which premiered on Star World last Oct. 3, and airs every Thursday at 9 p.m. (with replays on Fridays at 12:30 a.m., 3:30 a.m. and 12 noon, and on Sundays at 4 p.m.)

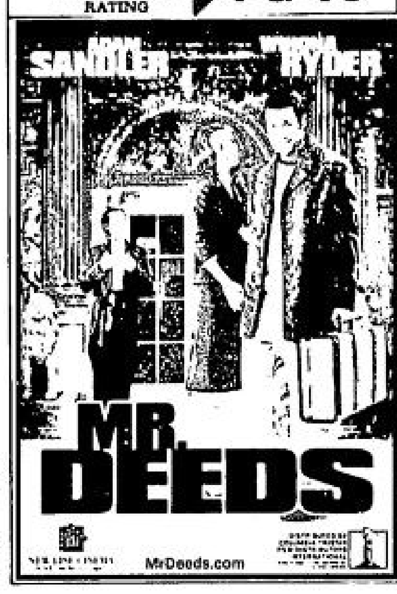
The new series stars **Jessica Alba** as Max, a genetically-enhanced human prototype. Having escaped her military handlers, she is hunted by them through the underground streetlife of the 21st century. She is aided in her quest—both capture and to reunite with her surviving "siblings"—by Logan Cale, an idealistic cyber-journalist.

Movies on TV

HUNDREDS of movies are shown on television each week. Here are some that are more promising than most:

On the HBO channel, Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 5:45 p.m., "The End of the Affair" 1:40 a.m., "Murder, she wrote: The Last Free Man." Thursday, Oct. 10 at 10 a.m., "Gorillas in the Mist: The story of Dian Fossey.

Friday, Oct. 11 at 10:30 p.m., "Interview with the Vampire" 12:30 a.m., "Little Shop of Horrors." Saturday, Oct. 12 at 9:30 a.m., "Best in Show" 10:50 p.m., the premiere of "Six Feet Under," the new hit series on US TV 2:30 a.m., "The Public Eye."



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

OPENS TODAY !

Adam Sandler is Longfellow Deeds, a lovable small-town guy who runs a pizzeria and writes greeting-card poems.

When he turns out to be the sole heir of a multi-billionaire, he moves to New York City where greedy businessmen try to take over the media empire he inherited.

Babe (WINONA RYDER), a tabloid reporter posing as a small-town girl to get the inside story, discovers Deeds' sincerity and big heart, and finds herself falling for him.

After *The Wedding Singer* and *Big Daddy*, Adam Sandler is back as the clumsy, sweet guy who gets the girl in *Mr. Deeds*.

It's the most fun you'll have on a date movie!

BRING A DATE, the laughs are on MR. DEEDS.

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WINONA RYDER
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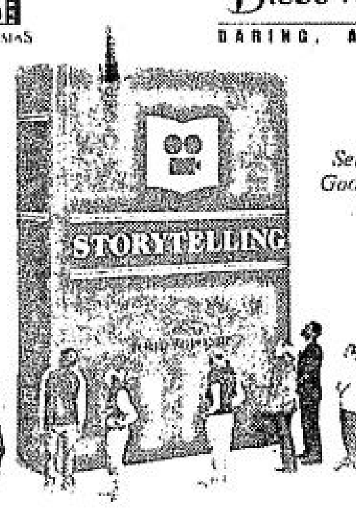


AYALA CINEMAS

Discover ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NOW SHOWING !

STORYTELLING

Selma Blair, Leo Fitzpatrick, Paul Giamatti, John Goodman, Julie Hagerty Directed by Todd Solondz

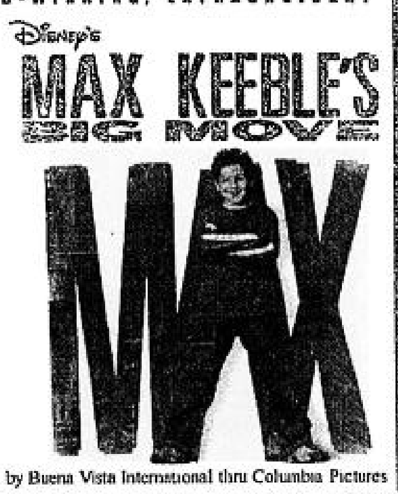
Storytelling plays between fantasy and reality. The first part, "Fiction,"observes creative writing students and their amorous adventures. In the second, "Nonfiction, "an aspiring documentary filmmaker follows the ups and mostly downs of a dysfunctional suburban family.Official Selection, New York Film Festival and Cannes Film Festival.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)

SKYFILMS

NOKIA INQUIRER

STORYTELLING



AYALA CINEMAS

Discover ArtFilm Greenbelt 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NOW SHOWING

Starring: Alex D. Linz, Robert Carradine, Brooke Anne Smith; Directed by: Tim Hill

Max Keeble is a seventh grader who is bullied by everyone in school. When he finds out he's moving to a new city, he turns the table on all the people who have ever picked on him, only to find out he's not moving after all.

Award: Best Supporting Actress (Brooke Anne Smith) - Young Artist Awards, U.S.A.

MTRCB Rating: General Patronage (G)

NOKIA INQUIRER

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BIG MOVE
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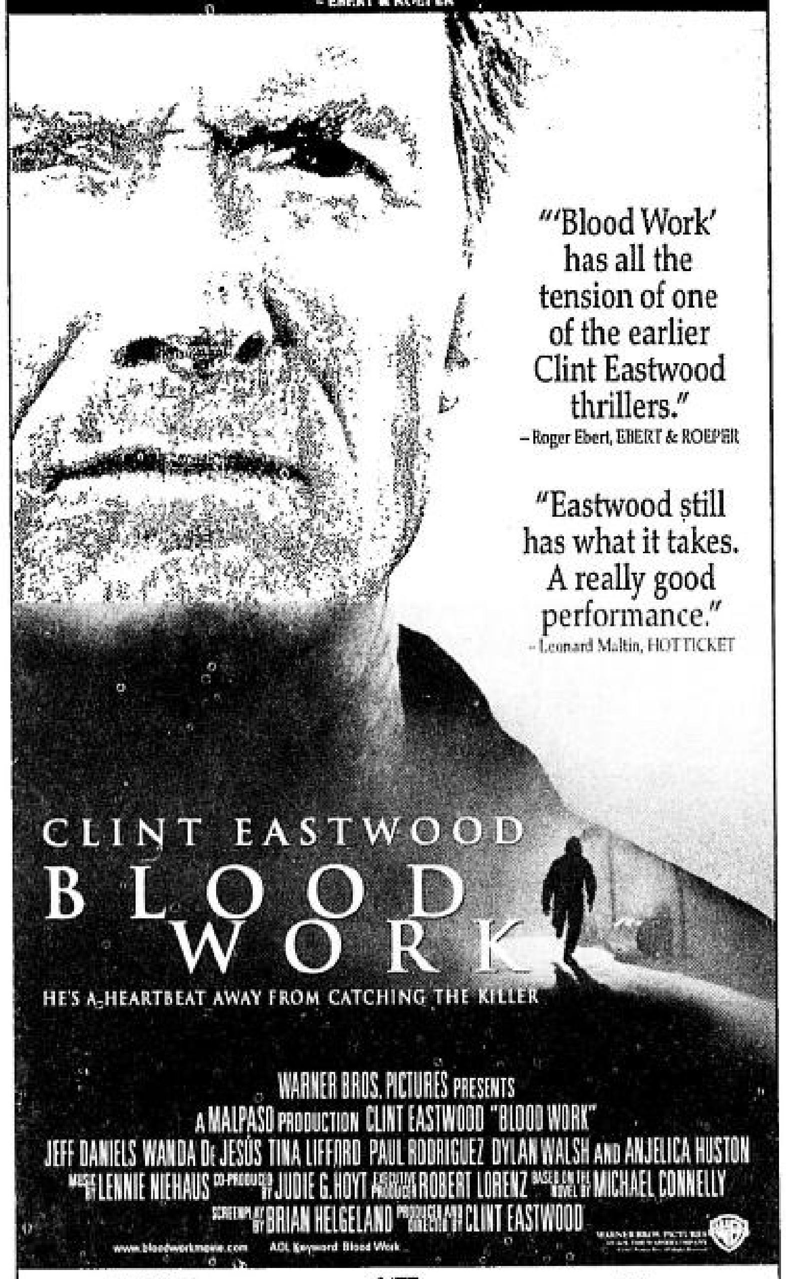
"TWO THUMBS UP!" - EBERT & ROEPER



"'Blood Work' has all the tension of one of the earlier Clint Eastwood thrillers."
– Roger Ebert, EBERT & ROEPER
"Eastwood still has what it takes. A really good performance."
– Leonard Maltin, HOTTICKET
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BLOOD WORK
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WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
A MALPASO PRODUCTION CLINT EASTWOOD "BLOOD WORK"
JEFF DANIELS WANDA DE JESÚS TINA LIFFORD PAUL RODRIGUEZ DYLAN WALSH AND ANJELICA HUSTON
MUSIC BY LENNIE NIEHAUS CO-PRODUCED BY JUDIE G. HOYT EXECUTIVE PRODUCER ROBERT LORENZ BASED ON THE NOVEL BY MICHAEL CONNELLY
SCREENPLAY BY BRIAN HELGELAND PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY CLINT EASTWOOD
www.bloodworkmovie.com AOL Keyword Blood Work

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"O" P13 11:30,1:30,3:35, 5:40,7:45,9:50	FRAILTY R18 12:50,3:00,5:10, 7:20,9:30	TUXEDO P13 1:20,3:30,5:40, 7:50,10:00

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SPORT / WALK TO REMEMBER
ODEON	THE TOUCH
ODEON-2	SAM OF ALL FEAR/KA-PITONG GLORIA
ROBEN	LOLLIPOP
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SORORITY BOYS/KILLING ME SOFTLY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	LILLIPOP
REMAR	HUBAD NA MULTO
REMAR-2	LILLIPOP
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BESTMAN
B	HUBAD NA MULTO
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	INT HE MOOD FOR LOVE
CINEMA-2	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	PROSTI
CINEMA-2	LOLLIPOP
CINEMA-3	SPY KIDS 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	TOUCH
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ENOUGH
CINEMA-6	BESTMAN
CINEMA-7	BIRTHDAY GIRL
CINEMA-8	HUBAD NA MULTO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TUXEDO
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLOODWORK
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MR DEEDS
CINEMA-12	FRAILITY
CINEMA-14	O
CINEMA-15	BESTMAN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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CINEMA 1	BESTMAN
CINEMA 2	ENOUGH
CINEMA 3	PROSTI
CINEMA 4	ROAD TO PERDITION
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Donita, Piolo ...

From page A28

Reyes, that's why her beauty is all the more enhanced by the salon's team of hairstylists and make-up artists.

New stars

HAVE you seen a UAAP champion team appearing as a guest in a show biz show?

Last Sunday, the Ateneo Blue Eagles and their coach **Joel Banal** were on ABS-CBN's "The Buzz."

The team members were interviewed by "The Buzz" hosts **Boy Abunda** and **Kris Aquino**, who are both Ateneans. Both hosts noted that there are many players in the team who are potential show biz stars.

There's the towering **Enrico Villanueva**, who is this year's Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Then there are **Marco Benitez**, **Badjie del Rosario**, **Larry Fonacier** and Fil-Am player **Doug Kramer**.

Even the cool **Jec Chia** has his share of screaming fans on the hardcourt.

These guys, however, are far from seriously considering a show biz career. Except for Villanueva who will leave the team this year, the other members of the Blue Eagles team are bent on getting another championship trophy next season.

With coach Joel Banal, that is no longer so far-fetched. Their show biz careers can come later.

ABS-CBN won the rights to air UAAP this year on Studio 23. The network's president, **Gabby Lopez**, himself an Atenean, awarded the trophy to the Blue Eagles.

MISALUCHA

SHOWS

Lani kicks off Tavern series of concerts

THE NEW Tavern on the Square recently opened at the second floor of the Greenbelt 3 begins its series of intimate performances with a concert by Lani Misalucha, 9:30 tonight.

Fresh from conquering the hearts of Filipinos in American cities, Lani teams up with one of her favorite musical directors, Louie Ocampo, for the show.

Among the many popular standards she will sing are "Only Hope," "Say a Little Prayer," "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love?" and hits of Whitney Houston.

Lani will also do a request portion.

Other Tavern confirmed artists in the "Intimate Performances" series are Gary Valenciano, Regine Velasquez, Ogie Alcasid and Kuh Ledesma.

Performing regularly are The Rage band on Thursdays, Prime Council on Mondays except Oct. 21 when South Border performs.

Barbie's Cradle. M.O.G., Route 70 and Velcro can also be seen at the Tavern.

For inquiries, call Tavern at 757-4484 or Artist House at 816-2496 or 817-4660.

'Crossover Presents'

GARY Valenciano returns to the Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental for the special monthly concert series, "Crossover Presents," tomorrow night, Oct. 10.

Joining Gary onstage are vocal group The Opera and "Crossover Presents" resident musicians—Mel Villena on saxophone, Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Roy Mercado on drums, under the musical direction of Gerard Salonga.

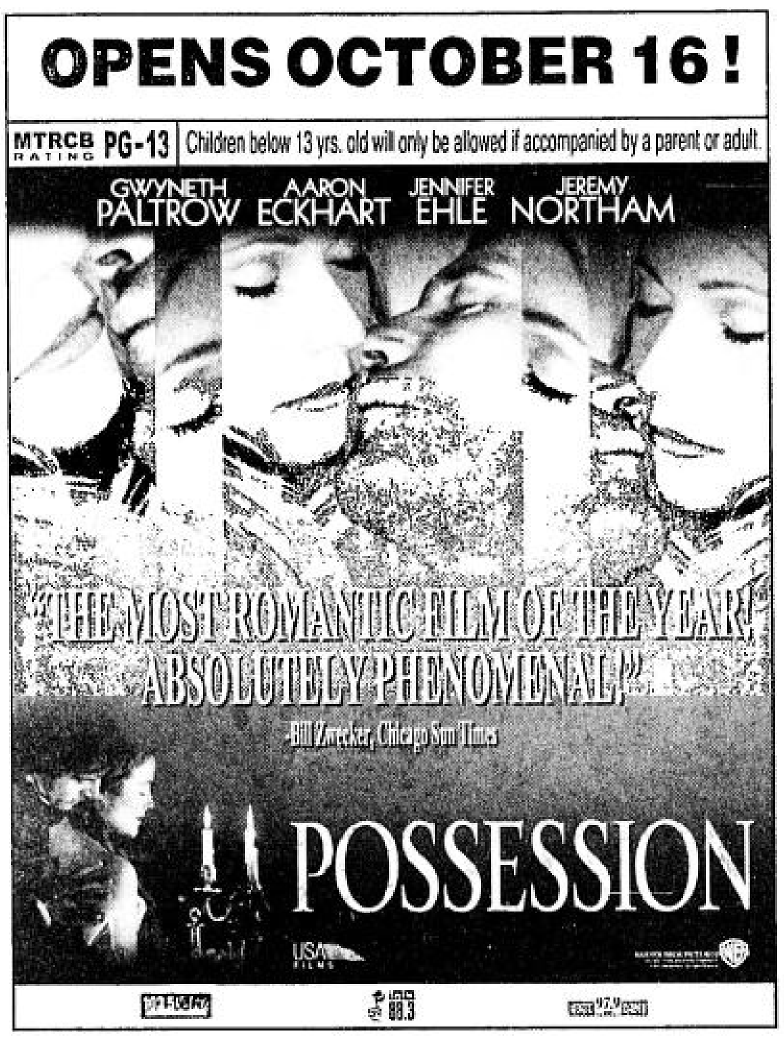
Special guest is singer-comedienne Marissa Sanchez.

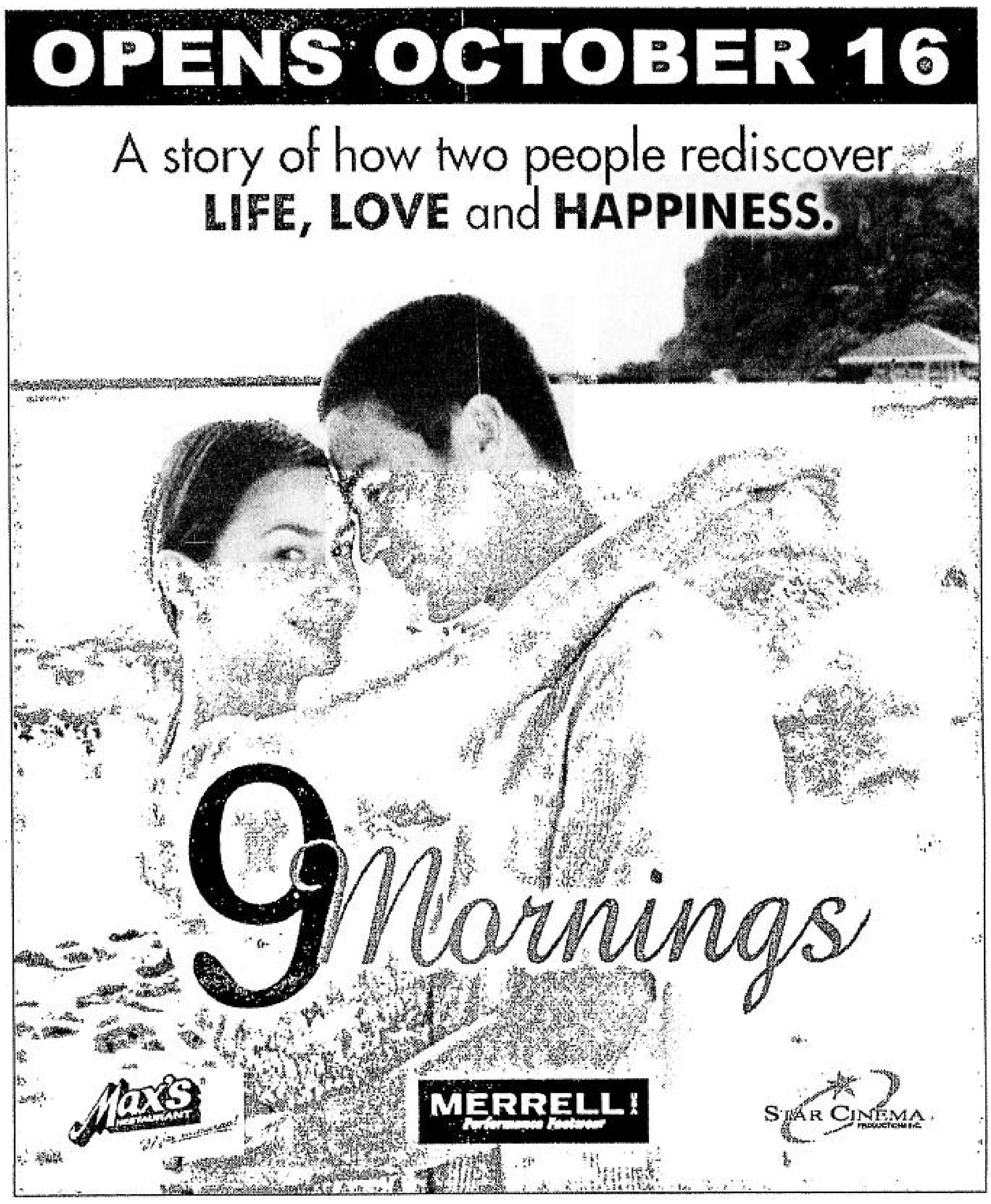
Catch Gary perform tunes like "Saturday in the Park" by Chicago, "Blue Rondo" by Al Jarreau, "Sing a Song" by Earth, Wind and Fire, plus other hits from artists such as Michael Jackson, George Benson, James Ingram and Stevie Wonder.

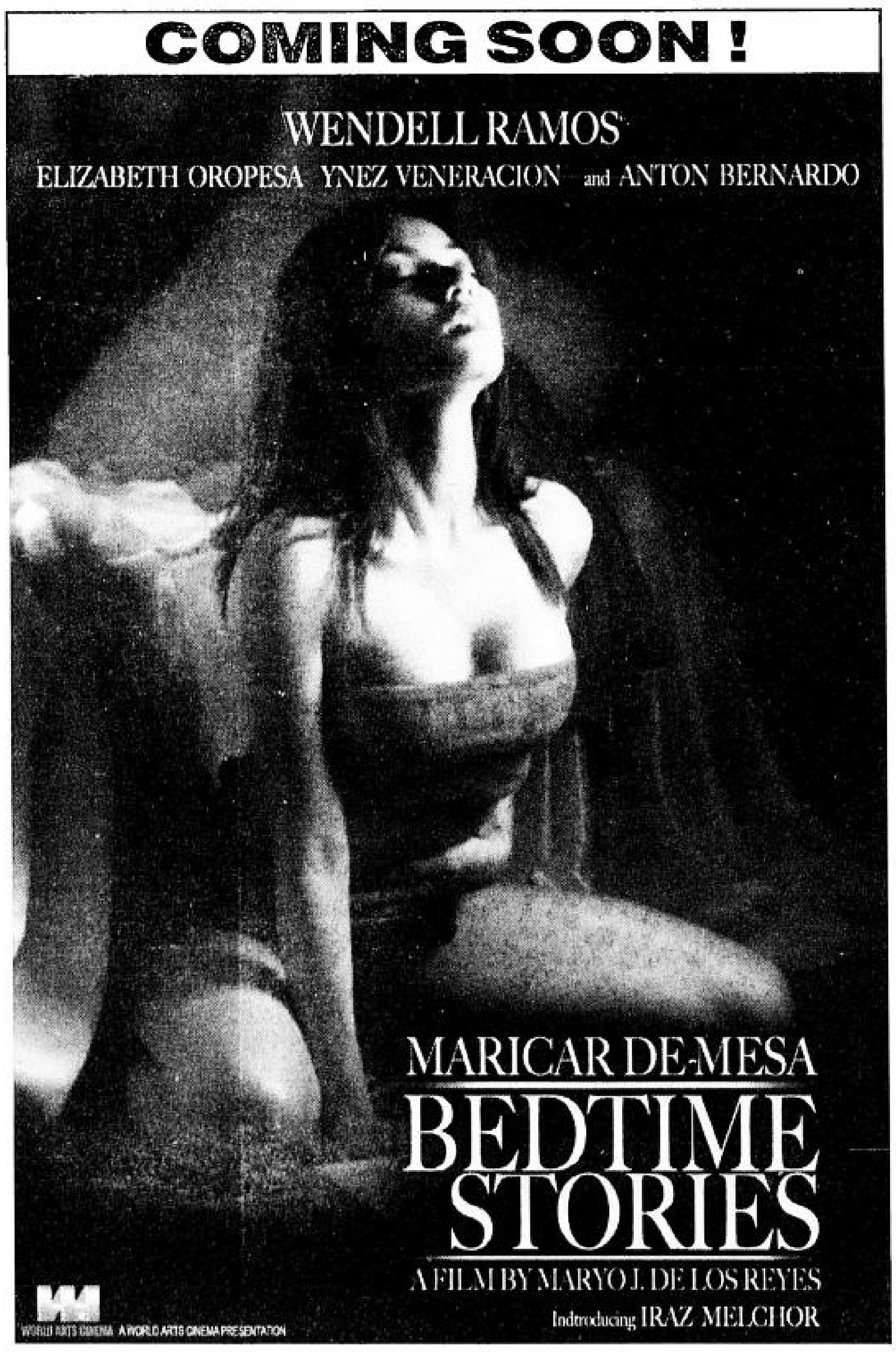
Show starts 8 p.m. Opening act is the instrumental group Da Capo, who will play favorite Crossover tunes.

Fresh from his successful concert series at Onstage in Greenbelt, Gary is looking forward to a cozy, relaxed ambiance at Captain's Bar.

The concert is presented by 105.1 Crossover. For ticket inquiries, call the Crossover office at 731-1667, Ticket World at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar at 750-8888.


OPENS OCTOBER 16!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
GWYNETH PALTROW AARON ECKHART JENNIFER EHLE JEREMY NORTHAM
"THE MOST ROMANTIC FILM OF THE YEAR! ABSOLUTELY PHENOMENAL!"
-Bill Zwecker, Chicago Sun-Times
POSSESSION


OPENS OCTOBER 16
A story of how two people rediscover LIFE, LOVE and HAPPINESS.
9 Mornings
Max's
MERRELL!
STAR CINEMA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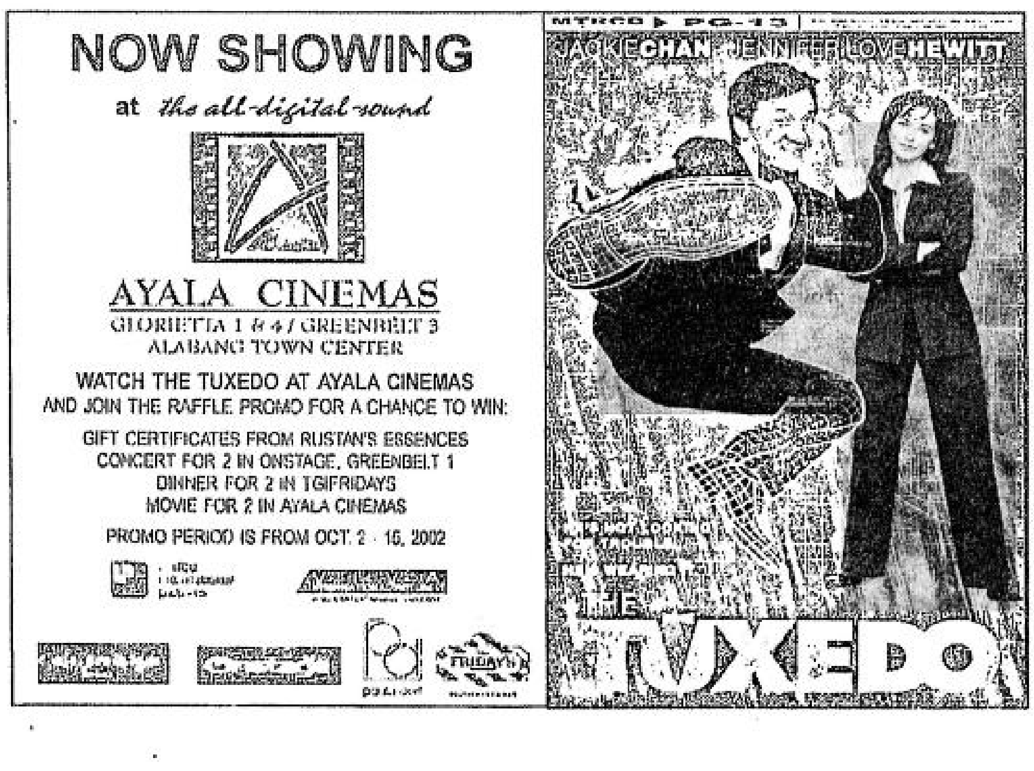
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BUSINESS

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Gov't to tap ₱20B in bank loans in Oct.

By Clarissa S. Batino

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the government might borrow up to P20 billion in bank loans this month for next year's funding requirements.

Edeza told reporters after the government's auction of four-year Treasury bonds that the bank loans would have a three-year or five-year maturity and should be finalized by the end of October.

He said tapping the investment banks for loans was a viable option for the government this month as the fixed-income market continued pushing interest rates higher by bidding high for treasury bills during the bureau's regular auctions.

Four banks will be involved in the proposed loans, including HSBC, he added. He did not identify the others but sources said they were among those that had earlier offered to lend to the government such as Security Bank; the group of Equitable PCI Bank, Bank of Philippine Islands and First Metro Investment Corp, and the group consisting of International Exchange Bank, Deutsche Bank and Multinational Investment Bancorporation

Edeza stressed the planned bank loans were not additional borrowings, but mere replacements of the supposed proceeds from the treasury auctions of the bureau. "The loans are part of our borrowing program."

The government issues P9 billion worth of treasury bills every two weeks and treasury bonds, whenever needed. For the past several auctions, however, the Bureau of Treasury has been rejecting offers submitted by banks as it found their rates too high.

Because of attempts by banks to push interest rates up, the bureau is considering canceling all auctions scheduled for December. He, however, said that if the government would not be able to raise enough from the loans, the bureau might still hold auctions in December.

Edeza earlier said the government had already completed its programmed foreign borrowings for the year of $1.468 billion and was now working to pre-finance next year's programmed deficit of P142.1 billion.

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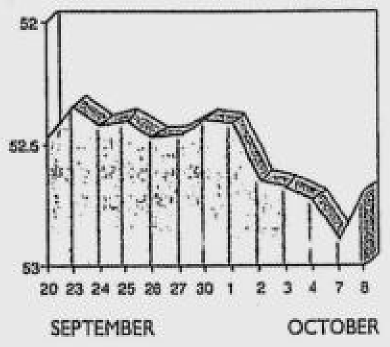

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.72 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 8, 2002

¥ 124.26 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Oct. 8, 2002

GOLD: $320.70-321.20
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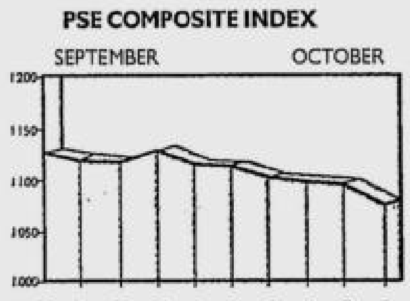
STOCK MARKET

Shares drop to 11-mo low


PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

(See stock market report on Page B2)

PHILIPPINE share prices fell 2 percent to an 11-month low Tuesday, dragged down by a falling peso, sluggish overseas markets and fresh concerns over Iraq, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 22.26 points to 1,075.75, the lowest level since Nov. 22 when the index hit 1,033.86 points.

"There was no fresh positive news and there were only a few investors in the market," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

"The overnight losses on Wall Street and the (Philippine) peso's continued weakening dampened sentiment further, plus there are lingering worries about a US attack on Iraq," he said. *AFP*

Sink or swim: AUVs facing an uncertain future

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.
(Third of a series)

B-One

EVEN before the Department of Trade and Industry announced that it wanted two or three assemblers exporting completely built-up vehicles, Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. had already barged through the starting gates and launched its bid to become the first auto company in the Philippines to be a volume exporter.

Ford will produce the Lynx sedan and Escape sport-utility vehicle and the Mazda Protégé at its Greenfield plant in Laguna, most of which will be shipped to Asean countries.

The company is targeting to ship an initial batch of 6,000 CBUs this year to Thailand and Indonesia under the Asean Industrial Co-operation (Aico) scheme. This is the first CBU trade undertaken under Aico, where complementation between Asean countries has been traditionally done largely on exchange of auto parts.

Ford expects to double its annual CBU exports to 12,000 with the start of the Asean Free Trade Area next year. With its export focus, roughly two-thirds of its production will now be devoted to making products for overseas markets.

"Export is the only option," Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. president Henry Co said. "The Philippines has a very small market base. I don't think it will still be sensible to assemble all of the knocked-down models here when Thailand and Indonesia produce the same models at five to six times the volume of Philippine plants?"

Even the industry favorite—the Asian-utility vehicle—which boasts of the highest local content among knocked-down vehicles, does not have any guarantee that they will continue to be assembled here, Co said:

"Just look at the figures. The Philippines produces roughly 30,000 AUVs a year compared to the 150,000 units made in Indonesia. Do you think it will be reasonable to continue producing them here if you can produce and import them at lower costs from Indonesia?" he asked.

Ford does not have an AUV in its product line, although it was among the first developers of the AUV in the 1970s with its Fiera. Production of the Fiera ceased in the mid-1980s shortly after the US car giant abandoned the

SINK/ B6

CURRENCIES

Oct. 8, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency Peso
United States	Dollar	1.016570	1.000000	52.8550
Japan	Yen	0.008185	0.008052	0.4256
United Kingdom	Pound	1.592762	1.566800	82.8132
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130338	0.128213	6.7767
Switzerland	Franc	0.683454	0.672314	35.5352
Canada	Dollar	0.637388	0.626999	33.1400
Singapore	Dollar	0.567757	0.558503	29.5197
Australia	Dollar	0.559016	0.549904	29.0652
Bahrain	Dinar	2.696616	2.652661	140.2064
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271086	0.266667	14.0947
Brunei	Dollar	0.568711	0.559441	29.5693
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000111	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.023188	0.022810	1.2056
UAE	Dirham	0.276859	0.272346	14.3948
Korea	Won	0.000826	0.000813	0.0430
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.983700	51.9935
Argentina	Real	0.271811	0.267380	14.1324
Brazil	Real	0.277145	0.272628	14.4098
Denmark	Kroner	0.134599	0.132405	6.9983
India	Rupee	0.021051	0.020708	1.0945
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267554	0.263193	13.9111
Mexico	New Peso	0.099703	0.098078	5.1839
New Zealand	Dollar	0.492119	0.484097	25.5869
Norway	Kroner	0.137237	0.135000	7.1354
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017230	0.016949	0.8958
South Africa	Rand	0.097094	0.095511	5.0482
Sweden	Kroner	0.110033	0.108239	5.7210
Syria	Pound	0.022999	0.022624	1.1958
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.029078	0.028604	1.5119
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000683	0.000672	0.0355

Peso improves to 52.72 to $1

THE PESO yesterday recovered to 52.72 to a dollar, up 18 centavos from Monday's close, as exporters and families of overseas workers started converting their dollars into pesos.

Traders said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas sold $15 million yesterday giving an added push, enabling the currency to rebound even as major regional currencies like the Japanese yen continued to fall.

But BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco denied that the central bank sold dollars to ease the pressure on the peso.

"We did not intervene. There was no need to," said the central bank official.

He pointed to aggressive dollar selling by exporters and the families of overseas workers as the reason for the peso's slight recovery.

Tetangco said that fundamentally, the peso should be trading at a much higher level given the huge surplus in the country's balance of payments that stood at $1.729 billion as of June.

The peso yesterday opened at Monday's close of 52.90 to $1, dropped to a low of 52.95 in the morning but when trading resumed in the afternoon, the peso started improving.

Transactions reached $126.5 million, higher from the previous day's $114 million. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Reaffirm trade policy, GMA urged

THE APEC Business Advisory Council (Abac) urged President Macapagal-Arroyo and other leaders to reaffirm their countries' commitment to trade liberalization.

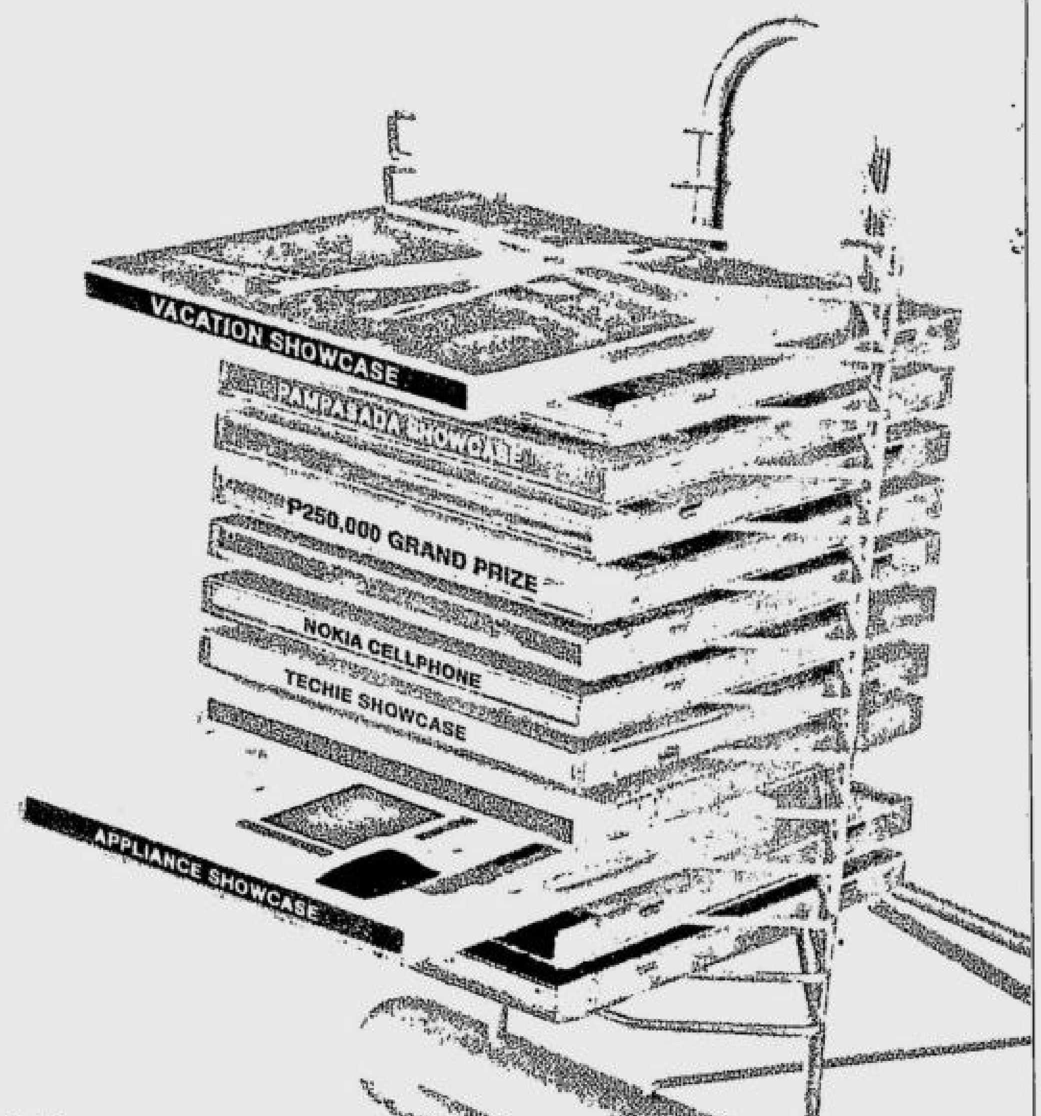
"Apec economies must reaffirm their commitment to the goal of free and open trade and investment established in Bogor, Indonesia in 1994 and undertake initiatives to secure desirable outcomes from the ongoing round of WTO negotiations at the earliest possible time," it said in its report to economic leaders for 2002.

"Such actions should be balanced with a more focused capacity building program aimed at promoting the growth and competitiveness of its developing member economies," Abac said in the report.

President Macapagal was presented the report by Abac Philippines chair Roberto R. Romulo and members Benigno N. Ricafort and Imelda M. Nicolas.

Abac stressed the importance of facilitation of trade and investment "to encourage the flow of people, goods, services, long-term investments and know-how."

What Drives You



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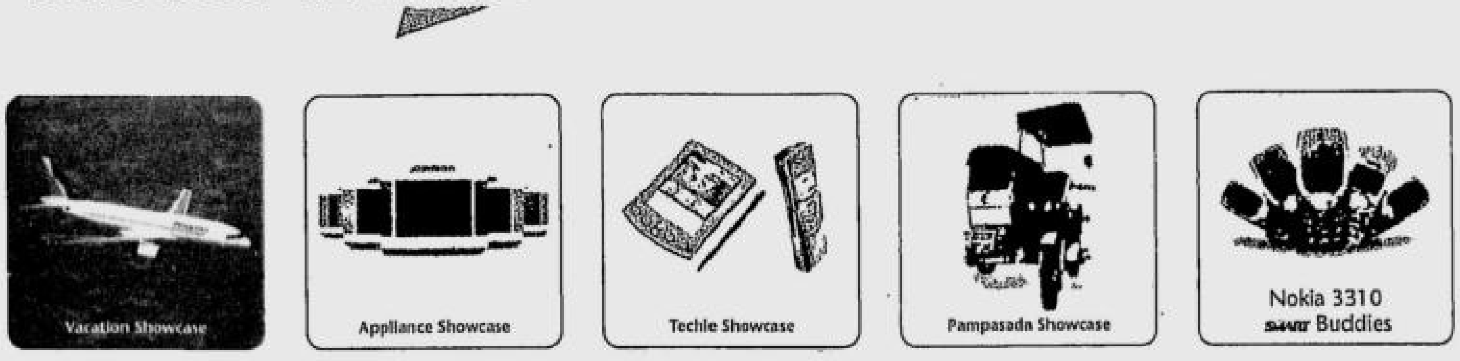

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9-month vehicle sales up 8.1%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE LOCAL automotive industry cruised to a higher ground in the first nine months this year as assemblers offer more perks and affordable financing programs to push their new models.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported yesterday that vehicle sales rose 8.1 percent to 61,350 units in the first three quarters this year from 56,743 units a year ago.

Commercial vehicle sales climbed 15.4 percent to 44,798 units during the nine-month period this year from 38,835 units a year ago. This more than offset the weak sales of passenger cars, which fell 7.6 percent to 16,552 units in the first nine months this year from 17,908 units during the same period last year.

Campi secretary general Mario de Grano said that most assemblers focused on their marketing campaign last month to ensure sustained demand following the initial surge in reaction to the release of new models. De Grano said assemblers took advantage of the low interest rates to give buyers more financing options.

The Truck Manufacturers Association reported that Asian utility vehicles accounted for 42 percent of total industry sales with 25,825 units sold during the first nine months this year.

Assemblers said demand for cars remained sluggish despite the launch of fresh and exciting models in the first few months of the year as they blamed the shift in the buyers' preference to AUVs.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc., once the leading passenger car brand in the country, reported that the robust sales of the Honda CR-V had weighed heavily on the turnover of its Civic, City and Accord vehicles. The CR-V—which has been remodeled as an AUV to avail itself of the tax perks for 10-seater vehicles—averaged 817 units a month since its launch in April this year.

Honda is now No. 4 among the leading AUV brands in the country with 4,086 units sold as of end-September this year behind Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (8,968 units), Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (6,892), and Isuzu Philippines Corp. (5,659).

Overall, Toyota remained the leading vehicle assembler in the country with sales of 17,908 units (29.1 percent) in the first nine months this year. Rounding up the top 5 are Mitsubishi (11,969 or 19.5 percent); Honda (9,324 or 15.1 percent); Isuzu (8,375 or 13.65 percent); and Nissan Motor group (5,462 or 8.9 percent).

Expert says China entry into WTO won't hurt RP

A CHINESE foreign trade expert yesterday said the Philippines has nothing to fear from China's entry into the World Trade Organization and integration into the Asean Free Trade Area.

In a speech before members of the Makati Business Club yesterday, Dr. Zhang Yunling said there have been unfounded fears in the Philippines and other Asean countries that China would pose a serious challenge to the region in terms of trade.

Zhang said the Philippines and the Asean have come out ahead in their trade with China based on their performance in recent years. "Asean is now the No. 4 exporter to China behind Japan, Taiwan and the European Union," Zhang said. Asean exports grew by 22 percent in the first seven months this year.

Zhang noted that there were apprehensions prior to China's membership in the WTO that the Mainland would import largely raw materials from the Asean for reexportation.

However, Zhang said the trade data showed otherwise. In the Philippines' case, Zhang said the country has enjoyed a trade surplus with China since 1999.

Zhang said manufactured goods accounted for 58 percent of all goods exported to China last year compared to 12 percent in the past few years. The country's raw material and commodity exports to China accounted for only 10 percent of total exports from 30 percent in the previous year.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

Ayala-Campos group seen offering $100M for BLC stake

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PARTNERSHIP between Ayala Land Inc. and United Laboratories Inc.'s Jose Campos is preparing an offer to settle the $100-million loan extended by Larouge BV to Metro Pacific Corp., a local subsidiary of First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, a source privy to the transaction said yesterday.

The Ayala-Campos group, in exchange for the loan payment, wants to get First Pacific's 50.4-percent stake in Metro Pacific Corp. unit Bonifacio Land Corp.

Metro Pacific, which owns 69.6 percent of BLC, used BLC shares to secure a $105-million loan from First Pacific subsidiary Larouge BV.

With the $925-million joint venture deal with the Gokongwei Group aborted, the source said the Ayala-Campos offer could be the answer to First Pacific's financial woes.

"First Pacific can't just sit on this offer. Time isn't on its side, with loans maturing in less than 90 days and the Ayala-Campos group won't wait forever," a source said.

The source added that this offer was a positive development that First Pacific should not just brush off as it would be very difficult for the Hong Kong-based firm to get a comparable or better offer.

Right now, First Pacific has yet to disclose a concrete, post-Gokongwei plan.

This uncertainty has led to the steady decline in its share price.

Its lowest share price for the year was posted in Oct. 2 at HK$0.81 per share.

This was the day First Pacific announced the termination of its memorandum of agreement with the Gokongwei Group.

"Analysts are convinced that unless First Pacific makes its position clear and lift the cloud of uncertainty, its share price will continue declining," the source said.

Share prices of Metro Pacific and telecommunications arm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. also fell. PLDT closed at P265 per share yesterday, while Metro Pacific closed at P0.23 per share.

Crackdown on textbook pirates looms

THE GOVERNMENT is set to take a decisive action against the growing menace of textbook piracy in the Philippines amid reports that the country is now "the second largest book piracy haven in Asia."

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) said it would "take legal and law enforcement action" against the proliferation of pirated medical, scientific and medical textbooks particularly in the so-called University Belt.

The NBI gave an ultimatum to local printers and book sellers suspected of engaging in the illegal reproduction of these copyrighted materials saying "no one will be spared in this crackdown."

The NBI also warned textbook pirates that Presidential Decree No. 1203, which in the past allowed the reproduction of imported textbook materials, had already been repealed and that the laws on intellectual property rights were now fully enforced in the country.

"Textbook pirates cannot invoke the protection of a law that has already been repealed," the NBI said.

The government move followed reports that legitimate local and international publishers lost close to $60 million in revenues last year due to the rampant illegal reproduction and selling of scientific, technical and medical textbooks in the country. The figure reflects a 36-percent increase from the losses reported by publishers in 1999 due to copyright piracy.

The copyright piracy problem affected the decision of the United States Trade Representative office to place the Philippines in the Priority Watchlist of intellectual property rights violators in the world.

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Source: IDC Asia/Pacific, PC Tracker Q1/Q2 2002

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BOI seeks tax cut for ecozone firms

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BOARD of Investments is pushing for the reduction to 3 percent of the 5-percent gross income tax enjoyed by locators at economic zones under the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) and at the country's special economic zones, an official of the Department of Finance said.

"The BOI wants either that or the conversion of the system from gross income taxation to a 15-percent tax on net income," said the official.

He said the finance department, however, wanted to retain the present system that imposed a 5-percent tax on the gross income earned by locators at Peza economic zones, Subic Bay Freeport, Cagayan Freeport and Cagayan Freeport.

"The intention (of the DOF) is to tighten the 5-percent gross taxation system and apply it strictly on gross income before any deduction, as opposed to the current practice which is deemed too lax," said a source.

Instead of paying 5 percent of the gross income without any deduction, the ecozones reportedly allow their locators to deduct certain items that reduce their taxable income. Government sources said deductions were not provided for in the original definition of gross income.

The BOI, said a source, wanted to lower the tax rate to 3 percent if the finance department would not agree to convert the tax system to one that imposes 15 percent tax on net income.

The BOI also want the lower tax rate applied also to exporters even those outside the economic zones. This, however, was strongly opposed by the DOF.

The finance department wanted to limit the tax perks as these were viewed as one of the big factors that bring down the government's tax collections. The trade department/BOI, however, said incentives were still necessary to attract investors.

The Departments of Finance and Trade have agreed to grant a maximum of 12 years in income tax holidays to "very large and extremely meritorious" investments like a $1-billion naphtha cracker plant or a wafer fabrication facility.

But for "generic" types of investments, the two departments agreed to offer the minimum available perks such as a four-year income tax holiday or a five-year net-operating-loss-carry-over or Nolco. Also included in the basic incentives package is the accelerated depreciation of machinery and equipment and the deferred imposition of the minimum corporate income tax of 32 percent.

Export-oriented industries, foreign investments and "strategic or exceptional" businesses will be entitled to a maximum income tax holiday of eight years or accelerated depreciation of equipment.

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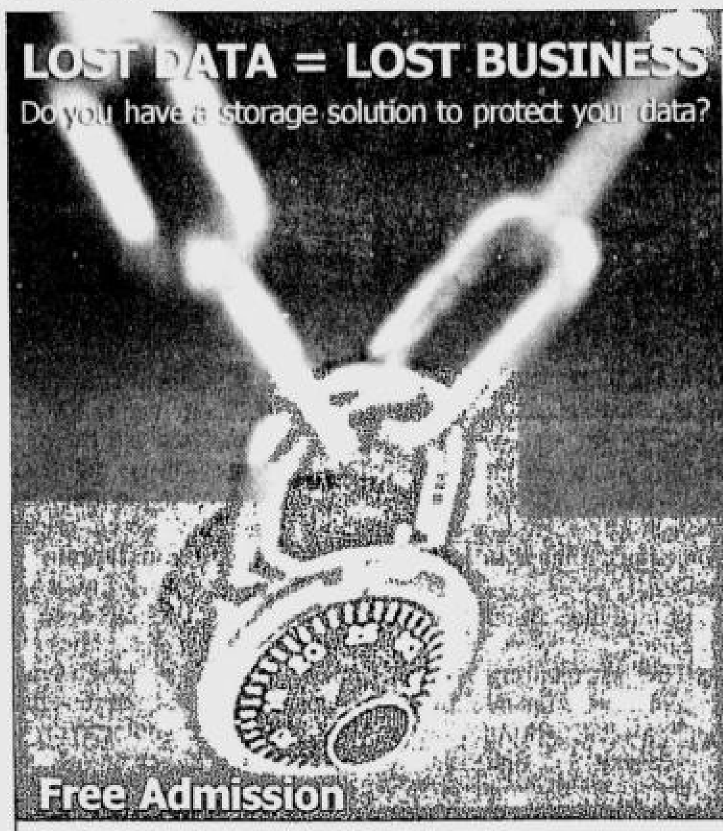
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1:00pm-1:30pm : **REGISTRATION**

1:30pm-2:30pm : **Managing and Protecting Mission-Critical Data**
by Computer Associates
Speaker: **Raymond Goh**, Storage Consultant, CA

2:30pm-3:00pm : **Snack**

3:00pm-4:00pm : **HP Technologies and Solutions for Disaster-Tolerant Data Protection**
by Hewlett Packard
Speaker: **Rowell Pena**, Product Specialist, HP

4:00pm-5:00pm : **Technical Consultation**

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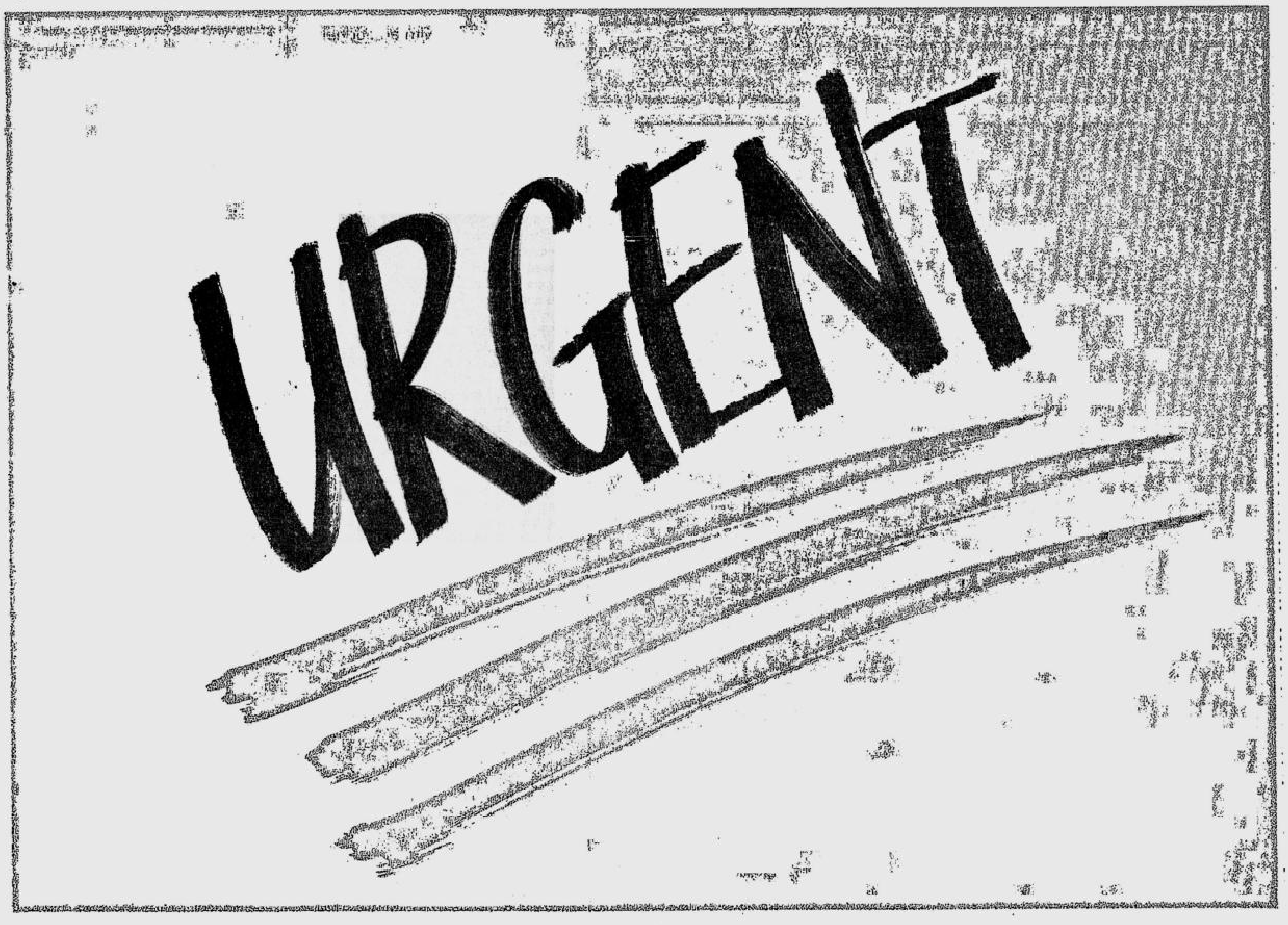

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MARKET SLUMP

Steniel defaults on P851M in loans, seeks restructuring

By Doris C. Dumlao

PACKAGING firm Steniel Manufacturing Corp. was declared in default by its creditors on P851.5 million worth of debts, the company told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

In a disclosure, the company said it would be unable to pay its debts that would fall due tomorrow due to a slump in the demand for its products brought about by the downturn in the industrial sector.

Steniel corporate information officer Nicanor Juan Andres Montoya said, however, that the company was in talks to restructure its unpaid debts.

"Negotiations are underway between the corporation and the lenders for a restructuring of the loan under an omnibus agreement," Montoya said.

Of Steniel's total debts, about P500 million represented long-term borrowings, based on latest financial statements submitted to the PSE.

Steniel's creditors had issued a notice of default, which provided that "the lenders shall enforce their remedies" under the omnibus agreement.

The disclosure did not specify the remedies.

Apart from restructuring, however, the other common options for creditors in case of loan defaults are outright foreclosure or *dacion en pago* (payment in kind).

Steniel was among the non-core assets sold by Metro Pacific Corp., the local unit of First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, a few years ago. Its 72.6-percent stake was sold to regional investment firm CVC Asia Pacific Ltd. for P425.5 million in 2000.

Analysts said the packaging industry was facing a very challenging environment, as some manufacturers now preferred to provide their own packaging requirements. Rather than farming out their packaging needs, several firms simply buy their own machinery and produce their own packaging materials. Also, a slump in the industry sector triggered by the US-led global slowdown last year caused a decline in the sector's volumes.

The manufacturing sector accounts for about 70 percent of the output of the country's industrial sector.

In recent years, Steniel has struggled to improve profitability and competitiveness by enhancing its production processes.

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6. Enforceability in the Philippines of International Agreements and Conventions on International Property Rights	2	International Law & Conventions
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A few more slots available. 10% discount for paid registration on or before October 18, 2002. Please contact Ms. Lites Viloria, Colen Romero or Ms. Donna Mendoza of the Institute of Continuing Legal Studies and Education, 2nd Floor, Ocampo Heritage Bldg., 214 Wilson St. San Juan, Metro Manila
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E-Government Track
November 20, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- State of E-Commerce Compliance by Philippine Government Agencies - Department of Trade and Industry
- E-Government Budget Allotment - Department of Budget and Management
- E-Banking and E-Payments - Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
- E-Commerce Project Standards - National Computer Center
- RP-Web Update - Department of Transportation and Communications
- Use of VAS in E-Government - National Telecommunications Commission
- Audit Initiatives and Issues - Commission on Audit

Wireless Track
November 20, 2002, 1:30-5:00pm
- The State of Wireless Technology: Multimedia Messaging System (MMS) - The Next Big Thing in Wireless
- Surviving the Advertising Slump Through Wireless Technologies
- Location-Based Services & Telematics
- Mobile Commerce: How Wireless Technology Makes Business

E-Commerce Track
November 21, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- Electronic Cash Management: Creating Value for Your Business in the Digital Age
- Best Practices in Doing E-Commerce by Successful DotComs in the Philippines: The e-2-door.com and MyAyala.com Case Studies
- Interactive Online Banking

Internet & Web Technology
November 21, 2002, 1:30-4:30pm
- Best Practices in E-Commerce Project Management
- Implementing Logistics: A Case Study
- Web Technology and Services - Microsoft.NET

Outsourcing Track
November 22, 2002, 9:00am-12:00nn
- The Philippine Software Development Outsourcing Industry: A Self Assessment
- 2003 Global Forecast for IT Services Outsourcing Market
- Global Market Opportunities in Outsourced Software Development Business

Policies Track
November 22, 2002, 1:30-4:00pm
- Convergence Bill
- Optical Media Bill
- Terrorism Bill
- Cyber Crime Bill

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Security Bank joins BIR eFPS

SECURITY Bank Corp. signed a memorandum of agreement with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Treasury at the Department of Finance last Oct. 3 formalizing its participation in the revenue collection agency's Electronic Filing and Payments System (eFPS).

Labeled eFPS RealTime and part of its DigiBanker suite of corporate cash management services, Security Bank's new facility will allow large corporate taxpayers to course their tax payments to the BIR in a secure, direct, and convenient manner.

"With this new offering, we look forward to assisting both the BIR in streamlining and securing the flow of revenue collections and Philippine corporations by providing them a safe and convenient means of effecting their tax payments" remarked Rafael F. Simpao Jr., president and CEO of Security Bank.

eFPS RealTime is the latest among several e-services launched last year by Security Bank, which include Security DigiBanker, TeleBanker, and MobileBanker. "More than a hundred large corporations already use DigiBanker to manage their operating funds flow on a daily basis," stated Manny Narciso, FVP and head of the bank's Cash Management Group.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, October 8, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.5	18.5	61,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	43.5	42.5	43	731,700
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	20
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	11,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	28	28	27.5	28	119,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1	1.06	0.83	1.06	180,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	33	31.5	32	213,000
Philippine National Bank	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	2,400
Security Bank Corp.	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	30,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	115,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	200,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	945	945	915	930	510
Sun Life Financial Serv.	780	780	770	770	720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.5	21.5	20	20	12,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.43	0.44	860,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	440	440	435	435	1,650
Ipeople Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.024	1,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.155	0.19	0.155	0.19	160,000
Piltel	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	380,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	267.5	267.5	262.5	265	103,970
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	41,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18	17.5	17.5	15,600
Manila Electric Co. B	28	28	27	27	497,000
Petron Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.5	1.52	1,893,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	6,733,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3	3	3	3	44,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	21,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	355,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	31,200
San Miguel Corp. A	54	54	53.5	53.5	124,700
San Miguel Corp. B	59	59	57	57	359,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.1	4.95	5	2,164,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.42	2.34	2.34	1,157,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	2,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	370,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.5	24,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	150,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9	9	9	9	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.225	3,470,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.065	0.08	0.065	0.08	900,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.125	0.125	510,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.015	800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	13	13	12.75	13	899,300
House of Investments Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	300,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	80,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	910,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	900,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.22	0.23	6,630,000
Music Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.72	0.72	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	4.5	4.9	4.5	4.9	32,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1	1	1	1	2,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	50,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	90,000
Pryce Corp.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	870,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	20.75	20.75	20.5	20.5	16,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.3	4,085,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	570,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	800,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.155	6,890,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.02	1.02	1	1	3,377,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	5,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	127,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	538,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	100,000
Omico Corp.	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	2,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	300,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0016	0.0016	0.0014	0.0014	12,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0018	0.0018	0.0014	0.0014	33,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	25,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	6,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	170,000

DISCLOSURES

MEDCO Holdings Inc. has denied having any information that may explain the 40-percent drop in its share price from 7 centavos to 4.2 centavos.

* * *

WILLIAM, Gothong & Aboitiz Inc. will hold its annual stockholders meeting on Nov. 11, 5 p.m., at the Cebu Country Club. Stockholders as of Oct. 11 are entitled to vote during the meeting.

* * *

WATERFRONT Philippines Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Nov. 8, 10 a.m., at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel. Stockholders as of Oct. 14 are entitled to vote. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PSE readies disclosure rules

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has drafted a new set of disclosure guidelines to ensure the timely and accurate release of material information on listed issues to the investing public.

The proposed guidelines, which are posted in the PSE's website (www.pse.org.ph), will be open for public feedback within one month, after which the new rules will be finalized by the exchange.

The guidelines include the blackout rule, which is being recommended as a "deterrent to insider trading by individuals who are privy to material non-public information." The PSE said this could be monitored through the submissions by the directors and principal officers of the issuer of their share holdings every time they buy or sell shares of the issuer.

Under the proposed blackout provision, a director or a principal officer of an issuer are not allowed to deal the issuer's securities within one month prior to the announcement and disclosure to the exchange of its annual and quarterly results of operations up to one full trading day after the said disclosure of the results is made, and when a material non-public information is obtained up to two full trading days after the price sensitive information is disclosed.

In addition, the issuers are required to disclose to the exchange the direct and indirect ownership of its directors and principal officers in its securities within a certain period.

Upon the request by the exchange, the proposed guidelines also provides that the issuer must confirm or deny the veracity of a material non-public information such as newspaper or news wire reports pertaining to the issuer or any of its subsidiaries.

If the request was made prior to the pre-opening period, the issuer must reply prior to the start of the said pre-open period or otherwise face a trading halt. If the request was made after trading hours, the issuer must reply prior to the start of the pre-open period of the next trading day.

The new guidelines also require the prompt disclosure on the following:

- Amendments to the articles of incorporation and bylaws;
- Acquisition by the issuer's subsidiaries and affiliates
- Release of shares under escrow or lock-up period within 10 days before end of the voluntary lock up period, and
- Termination of stock transfer agent as well as of the reason for termination. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Investors took more money out

FOREIGN portfolio investors took more money out of the Philippines than they ploughed in during September, according to central bank data released yesterday.

The data showed a net outflow of $14 million for the month, against net inflows of $10 million in August.

Despite the exodus of funds in September, the trend in the first nine months showed a sharp turnaround from the comparable period last year, with net inflows rising three-fold to $181.7 million from $45.3 million.

Total inflows for the first nine months of the year reached $1.072 billion against outflows of $890.9 million.

September is the second month of 2002 to register a net outflow of portfolio investments. In July, there was an outflow of $8.1 million.

In 2001, when the country was affected by a change in the presidency and a global economic slowdown, net outflows were recorded in five months of the year.

An improvement in the political and economic environment saw an uptick in investment in the first half of 2002 but some analysts have said concerns about the country's widening budget deficit and the slow pace of economic reform has dampened the appetite for Philippine investments recently, particularly stocks. *Reuters*

Malampaya group to seek more oil, gas

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MALAMPAYA consortium is planning to infuse more capital to explore prospects near its profitable Malampaya oil and gas fields, according to an industry source.

The source, who is privy to the matter, said in an interview the consortium was firming up a plan to drill two wells, but that this was "all preliminary."

Shell Philippines Exploration BV and Texaco Philippines both have a 45-percent stake in Malampaya, while PNOC Exploration Corp. holds the remaining 10 percent.

"The consortium wants to explore prospects that are outside Malampaya but are within Service Contract 38," the source said.

Data from the Department of Energy show that SC 38 covers a 158,526-hectare area in northwest Palawan.

SC 38 is so far the country's most successful service contract, as it covers the $4.5-billion Malampaya deep-water-gas-to-power project.

The Malampaya gas field is expected to yield 2.7 trillion cubic feet of natural gas over the next 20 years.

The field could also yield 85 million barrels of gas condensate that can also be used to fuel power plants.

During exploration for the gas, the consortium also discovered sitting beneath the gas field a reservoir of crude oil where 35 million barrels could be recovered.

In the extended well test conducted between December and May, the consortium produced about 2 million barrels of Malampaya crude that it sold to a refiner based in South Korea.

Oil executives explained that local refineries would need extensive capital to be able to process Malampaya crude, which was why importation of the oil was more practical.

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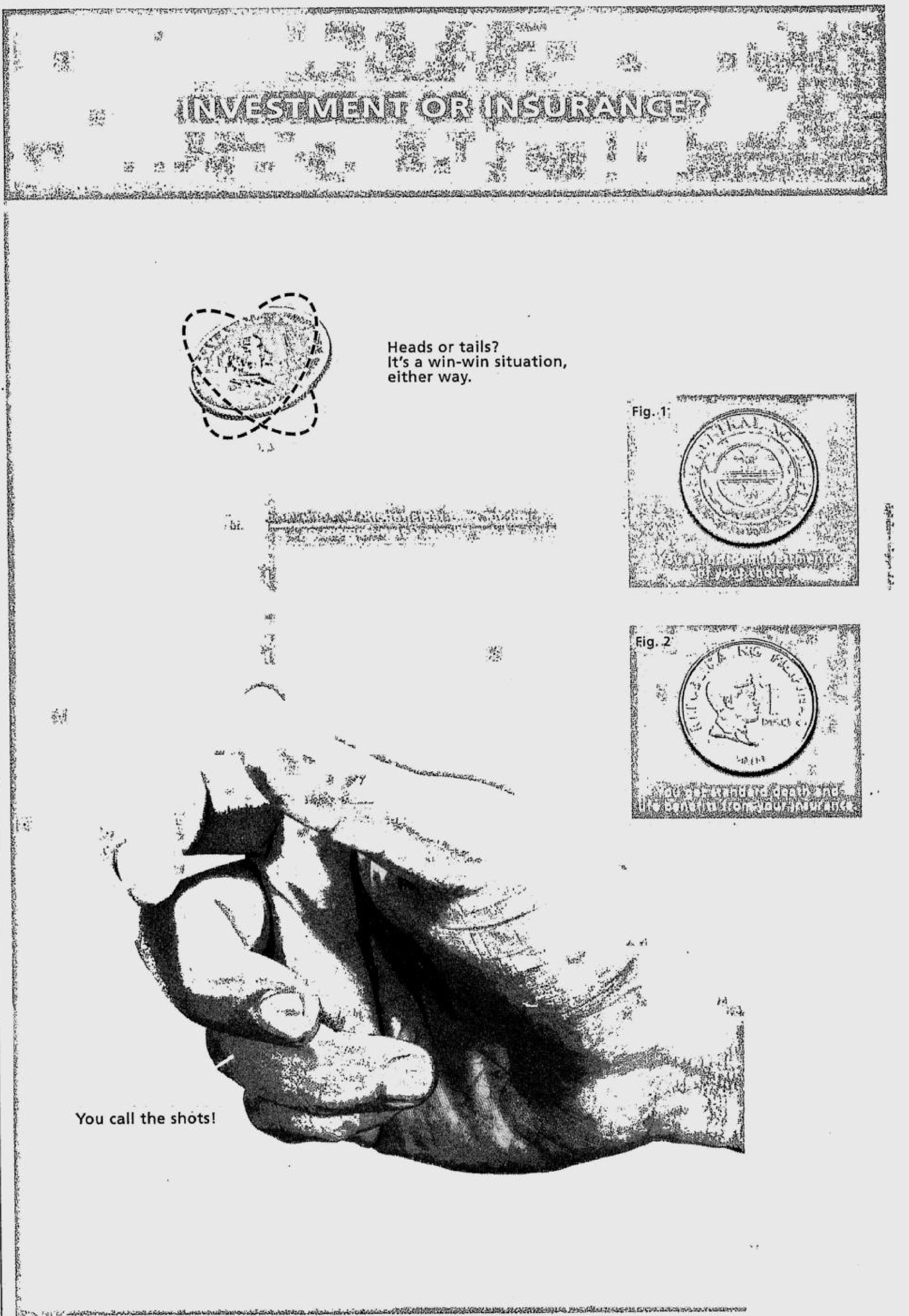
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Sink or swim: AUVs facing an uncertain future

From page B1

Philippines at the height of the country's political and economic problems.

Ford came back in 1998, lured by experts' prediction that Asean could become the fifth-largest auto market in the world with a combined market of 500 million people.

Of the first batch of models—among them the Cimarron and Harabas—that came up following President Marcos' call for the development of a Philippine-designed vehicle in the 1970s, only the Toyota Tamaraw is still in production.

Future of AUVs

In sharp contrast to Ford's gloomy outlook for the AUV, Japanese vehicle makers, specifically Mitsubishi, Toyota and Isuzu, are staking the future of their Philippine factories to the production of these hybrid models that have caught the fancy of most Filipinos looking for affordable vehicles that blend sedan and utilitarian features.

"We're betting on the AUV as a CBU export because it is a natural for the Philippines, where the product has been a consistent bestseller. If Thais love their pickups, while Malaysians and Indonesians love their sedans, Filipinos are passionate about their AUVs," Melchor Dizon, senior vice president of Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Corp., said. Mitsubishi makes the Adventure, the country's No. 2 AUV model.

"Japanese automakers prefer building on what is natural in our market and not what is simulated or contrived," Dizon said.

Putting its money where its mouth is, Mitsubishi is currently finalizing plans to relocate its AUV assembly plant from Indonesia to the Philippines as part of the firm's regional consolidation with the onset of Afta.

"Volume-wise, Indonesia has been producing more AUVs than the Philippines, but AUVs account for a bigger share of the Philippine market than Indonesia's.

Dizon said the bias for commercial vehicles in Indonesia was mostly due to Jakarta's decision to develop local "carozeris"—Indonesian auto body makers that build the panels of commercial vehicles.

Viable export base

"The tax perks have distorted the market by making cars more expensive than commercial vehicles, such as the AUVs. But with the withdrawal of incentives, Indonesians have been lapping up cars at the expense of commercial vehicle sales," Dizon said.

Isuzu Philippines Corp. executive vice president Hiroshi Ishino said the Philippines could be a viable export base of AUVs geared not only for Asean but also for the rest of Asia and other developing and least developed countries in the world.

"The Philippines is the only left-hand drive country among 'Asean 4,' which gives it a natural advantage against its peers to penetrate similar left-hand drive countries," Ishino said.

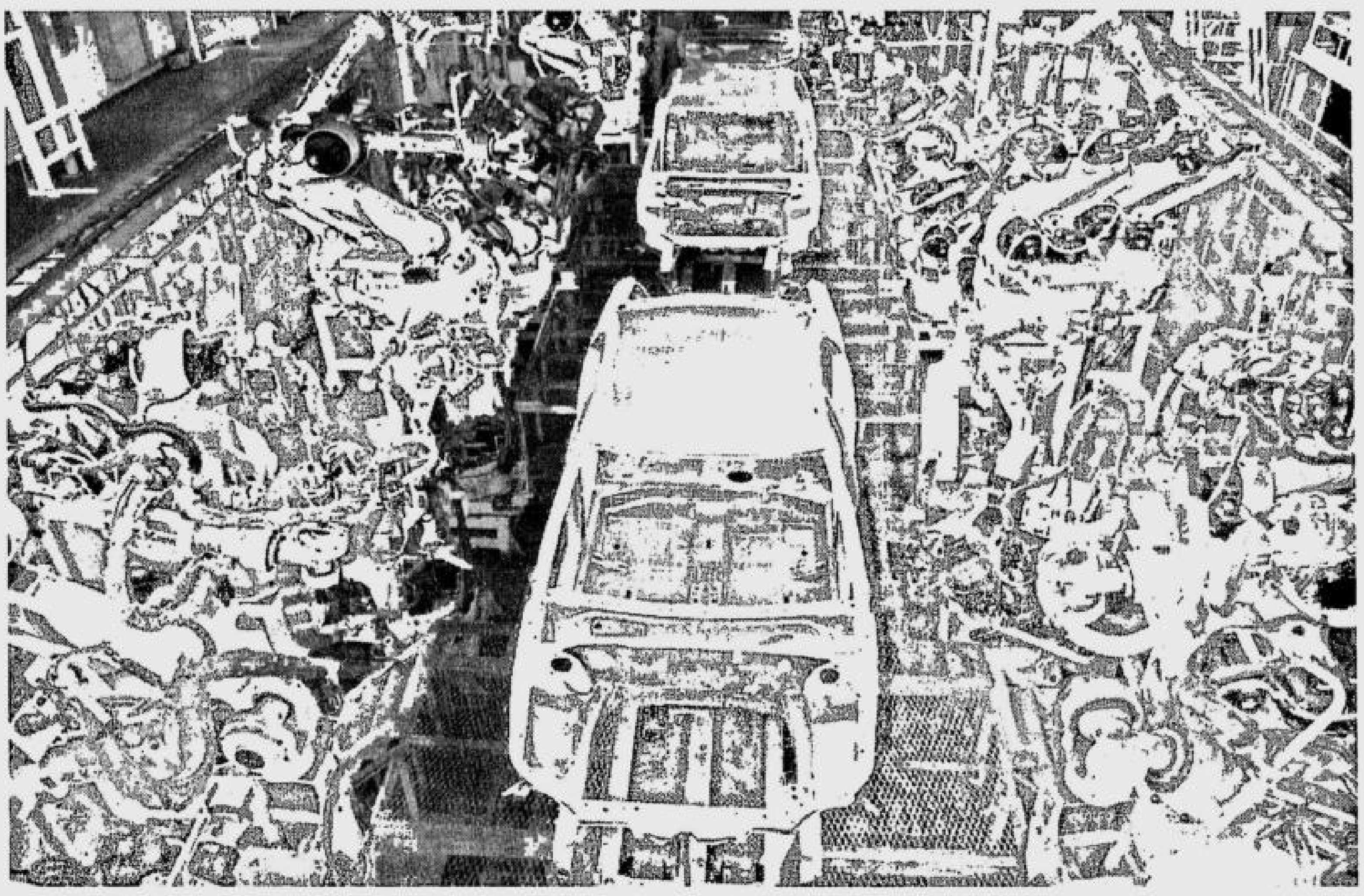
Isuzu, which makes the Crosswind AUV, plans to export completely built-up AUVs from its Philippine plant to Vietnam.

Ford's Co, however, shot down what Japanese assemblers had been peddling as the country's left-hand drive advantage.

"In Thailand, we have a pickup plant which makes 100,000 units a year for sale to 120 countries. Where the steering wheel is positioned is just one of the 4,000 specifications in our plants. There is no point separating production for left-hand and right-hand drives unless you produce 100,000 of each," Co said.

Parts or CBUs?

Toyota Motor Philippine Corp. senior vice president Serafin Pantaleon said the fact that other countries, such as Indonesia and Taiwan, copied the AUV concept from the Philippines showed the vast potential of this type of vehicle for wider global acceptance.


PARTIALLY assembled cars pass along one of Toyota Motor Co.'s manufacturing plants. Like most Japanese automakers, Toyota is confident that the future of the Philippine auto industry lies in Asian-utility vehicles.

"We're still considering our export options, and shipping out AUV CBUs is just one of them," Pantaleon said.

He said the Department of Trade and Industry's new strategy of encouraging CBU exports should not distract Toyota from its ongoing program of making the Philippines a production platform for auto parts exports.

"We're currently reviewing two or three other parts that we might be making in the future," Pantaleon added.

Toyota exported some $250 million worth of auto parts last year.

Pantaleon said Toyota designated the Philippines as its worldwide supplier for transmissions.

"It might be good to see a Philippine-made CBU driving down Bangkok's or Jakarta's streets, but isn't it much better to know that soon, all Toyota vehicles sold worldwide have transmissions built in Sta. Rosa, Laguna?" he said.

Natural destination

Pantaleon said just like the AUV, the Philippines has become a "natural" destination for transmission manufacturing.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. has also made its Sta. Rosa, Laguna, plant its production hub for manual transmissions of Honda vehicles sold in Asia, North America and Europe.

In a speech during the groundbreaking of the transmission plant, Honda senior managing director Katsuro Suzuki said: "The export of manual transmission is only a stepping stone. Our next step is to identify a vehicle to locally manufacture and export CBU to Asean countries and realize a balance of trade in the coming Asean Free Trade Area."

Honda Philippines deputy marketing chief Arnel Doria said it was critical for assemblers to make the right choice of model for CBU exports to Asean.

"We're giving ourselves up to three years to make this decision. It's not easy to recover from an initial setback if the model we choose does not sell well overseas," Doria said.

In making the choice of what model to export as CBUs, Doria said assemblers should give prime consideration to a unit's local content.

"There is really no point in exporting CBUs to Asean if all the parts are made from Thailand or Indonesia and labor is the only contribution of the Philippines. Then we'd just be another assembly point, and all the export figures would be just for show," Doria said.

Mitsubishi's Dizon said the relatively high local content of AUVs—more than 50 percent—make them the prime candidate for exports among the existing models.

"CBU exports can be deceiving especially if one does not take into account the local inputs compared to the imported components," Dizon said. (To be continued)

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1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Biotechnology for Maximizing Agricultural Productivity *(Seminar Rm. 1)*
- Application of Ultrasound in Modern Swine Production / Practical Feeding Practices for Replacement Gilts and the Gestating Sows *by: Illinois Department of Agriculture / USLGE Swine Trade Mission (Seminar Rm. 2)*

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- Use of PBM as Fishmeal Replacement in Shrimp and Other Aquafeeds *by: National Renderers Association (Seminar Rm. 1)*
- Immunosuppression Caused by Mycotoxins and the Solutions *by: Agrimate, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 2)*

OCTOBER 11, 2002

10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Wind & Water Utilization: The INFARMCO Experience [a] Wind Power Utilization: Optimum Climate Control in Productivity Systems through Tunnel Ventilation [b] Wastewater Utilization: Maximum Resource Recovery via an Effective & Efficient Wastewater Treatment System (WTS) *by: The Infarmco Group (Seminar Rm. 1)*
- Recent Developments in Swine Manure Management by: *AgriSpecialist, Inc. (Seminar Rm. 2)*

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Influence of Today's Environment on the Immune System of Intensively Reared Pigs *by: Vemaval, Inc./Hokovit (Seminar Rm. 1)*
- Open Forum on Swine Artifical Insemination *by: Jeida Farm Supply Corp.(Seminar Rm. 2)*

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- Feed Ingredients for Swine Diets- Nutrition Values / Problems Associated w/ Ingredient Storage & Handling / Establishing an Effective Genetic Improvement Program for Swine *by: Illinois Department of Agriculture/ USLGE Swine Trade Mission (Seminar Rm. 1)*

OCTOBER 12, 2002

10:30 am - 12:30 pm
- Product Packaging *by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center (Seminar Rm. 1)*
- Grouper Culture in Net Cages *by: Santeh Feeds Corp. (Seminar Rm. 2)*

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Management & Nutrition of the Piglet (Use of PRODUMIX Nucleus) *by: Cledacor Enterprises (Seminar Rm. 1)*
- Income for Life Through Mango Farming *by: Good Harvest Orchards Marketing Corp. (Seminar Rm. 2)*

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm
- Modern Ag.Biotechnology and DA Commercialization Guidelines *by: US Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service(Seminar Rm. 1)*
- Reviving Village-Level Poultry-Enterprise in the Philippines: The SASSO Vision *by: A.P. Inocencio Farms (Teresa Farms) (Seminar Rm. 2)*

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Treasurer says he's quitting for sure in Feb.

By Clarissa S. Batino

THIS time, it's for real, National Treasurer Sergio "Boy" Edeza told reporters when he announced yesterday that he would resign from government service on Feb. 16 next year, two years after he took his oath.

"I think I have served the government long enough. I've done my part and even agreed to stay longer than my original intentions," said Edeza, who first announced his plan to quit in July last year.

EDEZA: This time it's for real.

Edeza was convinced by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, his friend of 20 years, to stay longer.

The 45-year-old Edeza said this time around, he could not be persuaded to stay a day longer than Feb. 16.

Sources said Edeza was endorsing Juanchito "Jojo" Dispo, senior vice president of First Metro Investment Corp., as his replacement.

"I think I deserve my freedom. I have to move on because there are other things that matter," Edeza, the country's 22nd national treasurer, said.

He said his take-home pay of P35,000 a month was one of the major reasons behind his decision to resign.

When he first announced his plan to quit last year, money was already an issue.

Edeza said if he would have plenty of choices, he would not want to transfer to a private bank right after his stint with the National Treasury out of "delicadeza."

As national treasurer of the Macapagal administration, Edeza was tasked with handling both the domestic and foreign borrowings of the government when he should be responsible only for the peso fund-raising exercises.

Like most economic managers, Edeza works long hours and, although he found fulfillment in his job, he believes it is about time he looks for other opportunities.

Sources from the market said Edeza's departure would handicap the government's fund-raising exercises.

It was under his watch when the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate dropped to a record low of 4.299 percent in April.

Destiny subscribers to lose Star TV on Oct. 15

By Abigail L. Ho

STAR TV is pulling the plug on cable TV provider Destiny Cable Inc. on Oct. 15.

In an interview yesterday, Destiny marketing manager Richard Rodriguez said Star TV was withdrawing its services for no apparent reason.

The program provider only made its intentions known to Destiny in a letter that did not even state why it would remove its channels from Destiny's lineup, Rodriguez said.

"Star TV didn't cite any reasons. The only thing we got was a letter that said we couldn't carry their programs anymore after Oct. 15 as our contract would already be expiring by then," he told the INQUIRER.

He added that, part from citing no clear reason for the program pull-out, Star TV did not mention anything about a contract renegotiation in its letter.

Programming contracts are renewed every year to allow for agreements concerning new programming rates or whatever else involving the relationship of a cable service provider and a program provider.

Usually, program providers refuse to renew contracts with cable operators when problems such as unpaid debts come up.

At around the same time last year, Star TV also pulled the plug on SkyCable and Home Cable after the two cable TV providers failed to pay Star TV around P160 million worth of programming fees.

The program withdrawal happened without a warning then, leaving SkyCable and Home Cable subscribers annoyed that they would no longer be able to see the season opening of the National Basketball Association and the World Series broadcast on Star TV's all-sports channel, ESPN.

"But in our case, we have no debts to (Star TV). We've been carrying their channels since 1996, and there have been no problems. We've had a very good relationship with them, so we're still at a loss right now on why they would suddenly decide to pull out their programs from Destiny," Rodriguez said.

Rumors are rife that Star TV entered into an exclusivity agreement with the SkyCable-Home Cable tandem for its programs, including ESPN, Star Sports, Star World, Star Movies and Channel V.

Observers see it as a very timely move with the NBA season opening in three weeks.

Destiny had yet to make an announcement to its subscribers, as it was still hoping that it could make Star TV reverse its decision and renegotiate its contract.

"We already sent them a letter, primarily asking them why they would take their channels out of our lineup. We hope to get a response by (Wednesday) morning," Rodriguez said.

INTERIOR and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina congratulates Buenavista Mayor Percianita Racho of Agusan del Norte for good practices carried out in pursuit of procurement-related reforms. Looking on is Christian Rey of the World Bank. Buenavista is one of four provinces cited by the World Bank for their good practices and innovations in procurement processes.

De Venecia seeks 'open skies' for Clark

By Abigail L. Ho

HOUSE Speaker Jose de Venecia is pushing for an "open skies" setup at the Clark Special Economic Zone, saying this will lead to growth in Northern Luzon.

In a speech before the Pampanga Jaycees, De Venecia backed President Macapagal-Arroyo's position to open up Clark, a former US military base, to all airlines to make it the "transport hub of Asia."

He said he would asked Ms Macapagal to issue an executive order declaring the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport inside Clark as an "open-skies airport."

He said unrestricted air access into the DMIA would allow Clark to fully develop as a global cargo hub.

Right now, international courier United Parcel Service operates a regional hub inside Clark.

If the DMIA is declared an "open-skies airport," other non-US cargo carriers can make Clark their hubs.

"From just four months of (UPS) operation, the volume of traffic from countries directly linked to its new intra-Asia hub in the Philippines grew by 20 percent. In response to such growth volume, UPS added new flight routes to Seoul and Taipei and an additional UPS B757 to service those routes," De Venecia noted.

He said the UPS success story in its Philippine hub had drawn the interest of other non-US cargo carriers, including Nippon Cargo Airlines, KLM Cargo Airlines, TNT Global Express, and Logistics and Mail.

"Unfortunately, they cannot do so because we only have an open skies cargo agreement with the United States, but rest assured that we will do something about it," he said.

De Venecia added that open skies would mean easier access for overseas Filipino workers coming from northern Philippines to their destinations abroad.

With more flights coming out of the DMIA, these OFWs would no longer need to travel to Manila to catch outbound flights, he said.

He pointed out that 70 percent of 3 million OFWs come from Central and Northern Luzon.

SEC, Finance to sign $100-M deal with ADB

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission and the Department of Finance are set to sign tomorrow a memorandum of agreement with the Asian Development Bank for a $150-million loan to support the second phase of a reform program for the non-bank financial sector.

The loan will come in two tranches. The first tranche—amounting to $100 million—will be released if it is found that the government has already met the ADB's 24 policy conditions by Dec. 1 this year.

Government officials have already expressed confidence that they will meet this deadline.

The second tranche—amounting to $50 million—will be released upon satisfactory compliance with nine main conditions.

These conditions include the designation by the government of anti-money laundering courts.

The ADB also wants the SEC to sign an agreement with the Philippine Stock Exchange regarding the implementation of a business plan and self regulation

The SEC and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas are also expected to provide an action plan and procedures for joint onsite inspections of dually regulated entities.

The ADB expects the SEC, in particular, to develop risk-based capital standards for registered brokers, dealers and investment houses with minimum entry requirements.

The objective of the ADB's assitance to the government is to promote the non-bank financial sector by strengthening regulations.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Multi-Pure Philippines partners with coops

MULTI-PURE Philippines Corp., exclusive distributor of Multi-Pure drinking water treatment systems, has recently clinched a business partnership with the biggest national federation of cooperatives in the country.

Multi-Pure Philippines and the Philippine Cooperative Center, the umbrella organization of top coop networks in the country, hailed their partnership as "not only a business move, but also a move to jumpstart an active consumer campaign for safe drinking water." The partnership was launched Sept. 25 at the Multi-Pure Special Branch for Coops established at the PCC Building in Quezon City.

The business partnership enables PCC and its affiliates to join Multi-Pure's program called WaterClub International. According to Multi-Pure Philippines president Salvador Fabregas, the program aims to promote preventive health care and education on water safety and conservation, as well as create livelihood for coops. "This partnership is an expression of our company's support to the coop movement," said Fabregas.

"The worldwide coop movement started out as a society to protect the welfare of consumers. This business undertaking is an excellent opportunity to carry on that tradition," said lawyer Renato Fernandez, PCC chair.

"Co-ops participating in the program will have the opportunity to achieve higher business volumes from loans extended to members joining the program. They can also enjoy income from business centers owned by their affiliates. PCC members can thus further exercise mutual help, which is an important principle of the coop movement," added Fernandez.

The launching was attended by leaders of the cooperative movement, including Rep. Butz Aquino, Presidential Adviser on Coop Development Obet Pagdanganan, and Apec Party-List Rep. Ernie Pablo.

Multi-Pure Philippines distributes the US-manufactured Multi-Pure water filtration systems, which have been evaluated by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), the collaborative agency of the WHO for safe drinking water systems. NSF has certified Multi-Pure water treatment systems as one of only two systems in the world capable of removing the highest number of harmful contaminants present in drinking water. Multi-Pure has been awarded Outstanding Distributor of Water Purifiers by the Consumers Union of the Philippines and the Dangal ng Bayan Outstanding Water Purifier Company.

BDO LIFE SECURE'S FIRST CLIENT

BDO Insurance Brokers Inc. (BDOI), a wholly owned subsidiary of Banco de Oro Universal Bank, recently began offering the Life Secure and College Secure insurance plans of Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Company. Shown at simple recognition rites recently held at Banco de Oro head office with the first policyholder of Life Secure are, from right, Edith Dee Dychiao, BDO VP and head of corporate planning and marketing support, Jaime Yu, BDO SVP and head of branch banking group, Peter Roy Locsin, SVP and head of BDO Insurance Brokers, Alfonso P. Garcia Jr., president and CEO of Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Company, Danilo Dolleton, the first Life Secure client, Ma. Sharon Maranan, EVP and COO of Generali Pilipinas Life Assurance Company, Rufo Atienza, branch manager of BDO Alabang, and Gerardo Diaz, BDO SVP and head of Branch Sales. Dolleton had availed himself of the Life Secure plan through the BDO Alabang branch. BDOI, through 120 BDO branches nationwide, is now ready to receive inquiries regarding the wide range of life and non-life insurance products of Generali Pilipinas.

Customer Contact Center Inc.
AIG PHILAM

PHILAM INSURANCE PARTNERS WITH C-CUBED

Philam Insurance, one of the most respected general insurance companies in the Philippines, recently signed a contract with Customer Contact Center Inc. (C-Cubed), one of the fastest growing call center networks in the country, to support its customer interaction requirements which includes telemarketing, service and product inquiry. C-Cubed provides both outbound and inbound call support for Philam Insurance's broadmarket campaign, a distribution method using mass media to invite the public to apply for insurance. Shown (seated, from left) are Carl Gustini, country representative and GM of American International Group Marketing Corp. (AIGMC), Eckie Gonzales, CEO of C-Cubed, Joost Vink, president and CEO of Philam Insurance, and Jan Bengzon, business development and public affairs division head of C-Cubed. Standing, from left, are Kelly Mendoza, Philamlife Marketing/AIGMC representative, Paul Ruiz, business development manager of C-Cubed, and Vivian Flores, AVP for operations and systems of Philam Insurance.

Productivity, quality congress slated

THE PHILIPPINE Quality and Productivity Movement (PQPM) is still accepting reservations for the 20th National Quality & Productivity Congress to be held on Oct. 15 and 16 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

This year's Congress focuses on the theme "Breakthroughs in Tough Times" and will feature lectures, messages and case presentations on breakthroughs in the areas of leadership and change management, partnership management, academe and industry tie-up, management of technology, and public services.

Exhibit opening and cocktails are on Oct 15. Invited guests include productivity and quality (P&Q) advocates and practitioners, CEOs of business, civil society and academic institutions. Speakers at the congress include Jose L. Cuisia Jr., Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Juan A. Quintos, Filemon T. Berba Jr., Lirio O. Mapa, chair of the 20th National Quality & Productivity Congress, Magdaleno B. Albarracin, Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, Agustin C. Palao, Ma. Fredesvinda H. Yoingco, Bro. Andrew Gonzales, Dittas A. Formoso, Arthur Tan, Robin A. Martin, Dr. Rolando R. Platon, Roberto B. Guevarra, Bayani F. Fernando, Jose E. Chua, Raul C. Hernandez, Alejandro T. Escaño, Dante B. Canlas, and Feliciano L. Torres.

Target participants are representatives or executives from small and medium enterprises (SMEs), SME-related organizations, business enterprises, government agencies, labor organizations, technical and professional organizations, and civil society. Special discounts will be given to representatives from government, academe and labor.

The PQPM is an umbrella organization of productivity and quality organizations in the country. For more details, call 633-5556, telefax 633-5554, or e-mail pqpm@skyinet.net.

LAUNCHING
OF THE
2nd National Zoiron Painting Contest 2002
AUGUST 2002
EduQuest
EPSON
IBM
MEC

2ND ZOIRON NATIONAL PAINTING TILT OPENED

Multicare Pharmaceuticals Inc. launched its 2nd Zoiron National Painting Contest 2002. This project is intended to intensify its advocacy in fighting iron deficiency anemia among school children and encourage them to be artistically competitive as this year's theme 'Colors of Life' calls to inspire them. Multicare Foundation Inc. signed a contract with sponsors IBM Philippines, which will be providing two IBM Young Explorer Fun & Learning Center computers for the schools where the two grand prize winners would come from, EduQuest, Scantoy Philippines and Epson Philippines, which will be donating two Epson Inkjet printers. Shown are Jino Alvarez, assistant general manager for sales and marketing, Shirley T. Sy, chair, Multicare Foundation Inc, Romeo S. Sy, president, Multicare Pharmaceuticals Inc, Ana Roqueza, HR manager, IBM Philippines, Richard Burgos, communications manager, IBM Philippines, and Don Samatra, marketing manager, Multicare Pharmaceuticals Inc.

FOUNDATION DONATES P5M

Mariano C. Tanenglian (2nd from right), trustee and treasurer of the Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. turns over a P5-million check to the Washington SyCip Graduate School of Business Fund in support of curriculum, faculty development and other priority programs of the Asian Institute of Management. Receiving the check on behalf of the business school is AIM president and former Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo (center), while (from left) Tan Yan Kee finance director Jaime Bautista, SGV & Co managing director Cesar Purisima, and Tan Yan Kee trustee Harry C. Tan look on. The Tan Yan Kee Foundation Inc. is the principal philanthropic arm of the Lucio C. Tan Group of Companies.

Clips

Agri, food processing exhibit

THE FOUNDATION for Resource Linkage and Development Inc. is holding its annual joint agriculture and food processing exhibit from Oct. 10 to 12 at the Financial Center Area of the World Trade Center along Roxas Boulevard. Philippines Online is the official Internet service provider for the three-day event. The 9th International Agribusiness Trade Exhibition and Seminars (Agrilink 2002) and the 3rd International Food Processing, Packaging and Food Products Exhibition (Foodlink 2002) aims to showcase and encourage linkages in the livestock, poultry, aquaculture and horticulture sectors. It also aims to create awareness of up-to-date and advanced technologies related to the agri and food industries. The joint exhibit is mounted under the auspices of the DA, the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Chamber of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

TNT sponsors business summit

TNT, the world's leading business logistics solutions company, in cooperation with CNBC, the foremost provider of business and financial information, invites Asia's entrepreneurs to join the Asia Business Leader Summit on Oct. 11 at the Grand Hyatt, Hong Kong. Themed "Growth Through Leadership" the Asia Business Leader Summit 200 is held in conjunction with the Asia Business Leader Awards set to run in Hong Kong Oct. 10. Among the several speakers featured include Ken McCall, CEO of TNT Asia, Middle East and Africa and Kevin B. Rollins, president and COO of Dell Computer Corp. For more information on the Asia Business Leader Summit, call Samantha Chan at (+852) 2509-5166 or visit www.cnbcasia.com/abla2002/summit. TNT reported sales in 2001 of euro 4.139 billion. The TNT Express website is www.tnt.com.

PAL holds Cargo Awards

PHILIPPINE Airlines will once again hold its annual Cargo Awards tonight at 6 p.m. at the Century Park Hotel along P. Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila. The night will feature the awarding of Philippine Airlines 31 top-performing cargo agents both from the international and domestic sectors. These cargo awardees have proven their long-standing loyalty to the company, and this is PAL's way of recognizing their valuable support and commitment to the national carrier. Cargo Sales Sub-Department is sponsoring this prestigious event, of which the top management from both PAL and the respective cargo agencies will be expected to grace the affair. The awards night will be a culmination of events hosted by well-known personalities in the local entertainment industry.

Back-to-back VFR seminars

GOOD causes just don't sell themselves. Knowing how to present your organization's cause and get donors to give is crucial to fulfilling your mission. Venture for Fund Raising takes you through special events fund raising and major gifts solicitation, two tried-and-tested methods for achieving fund raising success. In "The Art of Asking" veteran fundraiser John Silva discusses fundraising and philanthropic giving in the Philippines, and will allow you to discover how to ask for major gifts the right way. In "Planning for the Big Day", special events planners will share their secrets for professionally planning your special event. This back-to-back offering will be held on Oct. 10 and 11 at the Discovery Suites, Pasig City. For more details, call Valerie Remoquillo, manager for training services, at 634-8889 to 90, or fax 637-3545.

Labor Law seminar set

IS YOUR company on the right track as far as handling your people is concerned? Update your knowledge on administrative proceedings, disciplinary action, suspension, just and authorized causes of termination, latest jurisprudence of the Supreme Court, and case studies through a seminar slated on Oct. 9, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Legend Hotel, Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City. The seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2503-C, Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Ann at 638-7719/20 for more information on this seminar and other seminars slated this October.

Managing restos, canteens

RESTAURATEURS, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators and those planning to open their own foodservice business now have a chance to hone their skills when ProActive Center for Training holds its Managing a Restaurant/Canteen Seminar-Workshop from Oct. 9 to 18, 1 to 5 p.m. at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, Quezon City. Inquiries can be called in at 787-6370, or at 0919-5500601. The training covers such topics as planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment, hygiene and sanitation, human resource development, and cost control. Foodservice consultants, restaurant and hotel executives, and professors of hotel and restaurant management are tapped to be facilitators.

Japan slightly upgrades economic assessment

TOKYO—Japan's Finance Ministry slightly upgraded its assessment of the economy Tuesday, citing a rise in industrial production and improved consumer spending.

But it was cautious toward much of the rest of the economy, saying employment conditions remain severe and companies are going bankrupt at a higher rate than last year.

The quarterly assessment pulled together economic reports from the ministry's 11 regional finance bureau chiefs.

Japan's economy has picked up in the past nine months as rising demand from overseas markets has lifted domestic output. But price declines and corporate restructuring as companies try to repay debts and lift profits have kept the recovery fragile.

In addition to improved output and consumer spending, the Finance Ministry said business sentiment worsened at a slower rate than in the most recent three months.

"The economy has stopped deteriorating in almost all areas, and there are signs of improvement in some parts of many regions," the report said.

This was a modest upgrade from June when the ministry said "overall, economic deterioration is coming to an end."

On Monday, the leading index on the Tokyo Stock Exchange fell 339.55 points, or 3.76 percent, to 8,668.00 points, its lowest close in 19 years, on fears of economic problems if the government forces banks to tackle their massive bad loan problems.

The Nikkei average, however, gained slightly and the yen pulled back from fresh three-year lows against the Euro. The yen was still seen as vulnerable to fears over painful bank reforms.

Many analysts say the bad debts—estimated by the government at 43 trillion yen ($347 billion)—are a major cause of Japan's economic doldrums. But investors fear an aggressive bad loan disposal policy could force troubled companies into bankruptcy, sapping yet more strength from the economy.

Also helping fuel pessimism on Japan's economy was government data showing that machinery orders tumbled 13.6 percent in August from July. *Reuters*

US consumer credit slowed sharply in Aug.

WASHINGTON—Growth in household borrowing slowed sharply in August, posting its smallest gain in eight months, according to a Federal Reserve report on Monday.

The Fed said outstanding consumer credit rose by $4.2 billion in August, its smallest gain since December 2001's $3.9-billion advance. Most of the gain was concentrated in revolving credit, such as credit cards.

Only about $200 million of the August gain came from closed-end, or non-revolving debt, such as that taken out for cars, boats, mobile homes, or education expenses. That was the slowest monthly increase since an outright decline in June 1999.

Revolving credit, in contrast, grew by $3.9 billion in August. But even that was also a slowing from the previous month's $6.4-billion advance.

July total credit outstanding was revised downward slightly, to a $10.0 billion gain from the previously reported $10.8 billion gain.

The August gain was much weaker than Wall Street analysts had been anticipating and may raise worries about consumer spending ahead.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected August credit to jump by about $11.5 billion.

Mike Moran, chief economist with Daiwa Securities America in New York, said the report may have been skewed by a large number of car leases or backlogged paperwork at dealers' that may result in a revision to the data next month.

"It could be any number of things," he said.

The small increase in non-revolving credit surprised analysts, who had been expecting a gain reflecting strong auto sales. Those sales have been boosted by the renewal of cheap financing by automakers, put in place to move cars off dealer lots.

The average interest rate offered by the finance arms of major auto manufacturers fell to 2.23 percent in August from 3.50 percent in July. That's the lowest since the Fed began tracking the rate in June 1971, the central bank said. *Reuters*

China sets new rules on acquisition

SHANGHAI—China will implement new rules on the acquisition of controlling stakes in domestically listed firms in December to facilitate foreign and domestic investments in these companies, the securities regulator said on Tuesday.

Investors would be able to buy controlling stakes in listed firms through the markets or agreements with the firms and their shareholders, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) said in a statement published in official Chinese newspapers.

Investors taking a controlling stake in a listed firm would not be allowed to transfer control of the company within 12 months after the purchase. A holding of 30 percent or more is considered a controlling stake, the rules said.

"The rules are designed to regulate the purchase of listed companies, better boost market resources and protect investors' legal rights," the CSRC statement said, adding that the rules would take effect on Dec. 1.

CSRC Chair Zhou Xiaochuan was quoted as saying potential investors included foreigners and private firms.

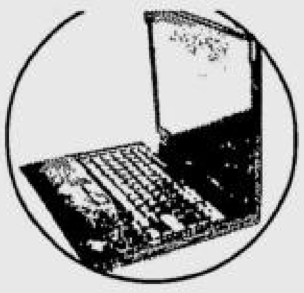
"The new rules will treat all types of investors equally so as to attract more buyers," Zhou was quoted by the official Shanghai Securities News as saying.

"The purchase of listed companies by non-state-owned and foreign-funded enterprises will further enhance the quality of the companies and lay the foundation for a sustained and healthy development of the securities market," Zhou said.

China's $530-billion stock markets rival Hong Kong as Asia's second largest by market capitalization with 1,200 listed companies, but many are aging, loss-making state enterprises.

These firms are desperate for capital to upgrade technology, trim bloated payrolls and compete in a freer environment after China joined the World Trade Organization last year and ushered in more foreign competition across many industries.

The new rules are similar to existing exchange regulations on domestic companies buying into listed firms, although China has no specific rules on foreign companies buying listed firms. *Reuters*



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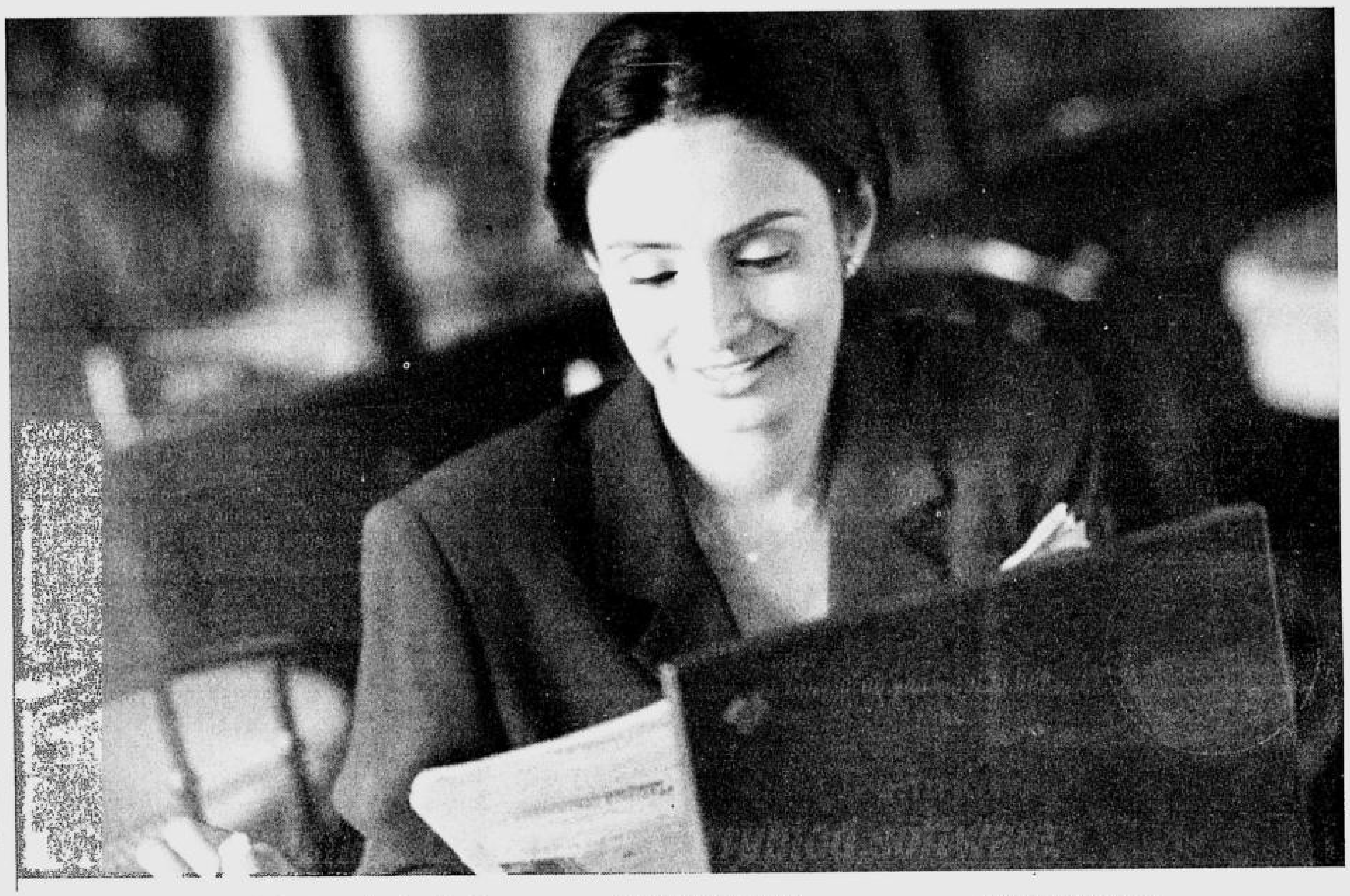

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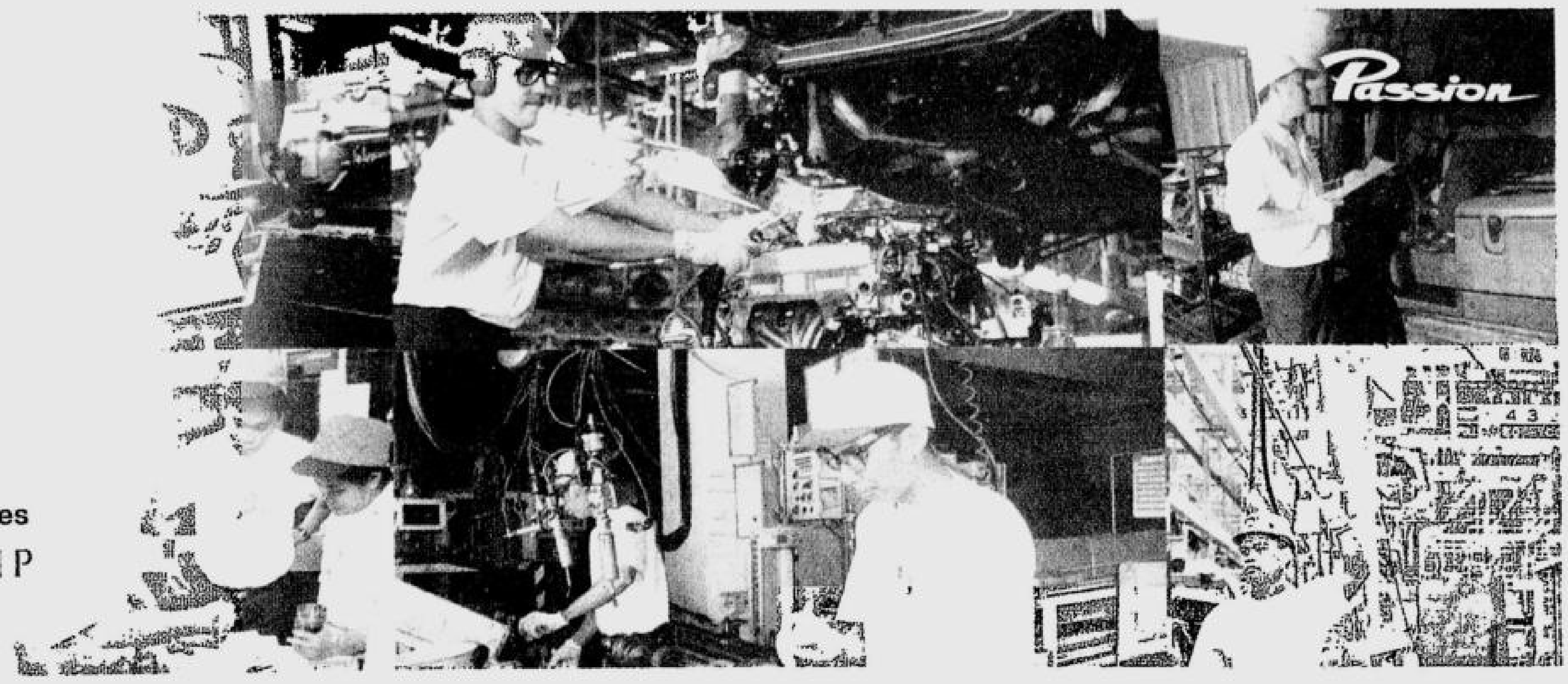
TOYOTA and the Philippines
IN PARTNERSHIP



Toyota and the Filipinos: Hand in hand on the road to progress

TOYOTA is not just a vehicle. It is a name that is synonymous to growth and development. A household name the world over, Toyota produces some six million vehicles in 24 countries including the Philippines. Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMPC), set up in 1988, has stood by the Philippines over the past 14 years and has become a partner in the country's ride to progress.

Commitment

Throughout the years, Toyota has not just been a witness to what the country went through, it has remained unwavering in its commitment to the country's development.

Toyota has remained steadfast to the Philippines and continues to foster growth in the country with investments reaching P14.3 billion in plant facilities and equipment since 1990. This is an average investment of over P1 billion annually for the past 12 years.

The Toyota Group of Companies in the Philippines directly and indirectly creates jobs for thousands of Filipinos and contributes to exports of about $284 million annually or some P14.8 billion.

Three major companies – Toyota Motor Corporation, Metrobank and Mitsui & Co. Ltd, founded TMPC.

Economic Contributions

Realizing the potential of the country and the strength of its workers, Toyota set up another firm, the Toyota Autoparts Philippines Inc., in 1992, to manufacture auto transmissions for export.

Beyond employment, the value of TAP lies also in its contributions to the Philippine economy through much needed foreign exchange earnings.

> *In every community where the company operates, Toyota strives to be a responsible corporate citizen. Close relationships with people and organizations in the local community are essential contributors to mutual prosperity.*

Toyota recognizes the English-speaking capability of the Filipino worker, which is vital as the world market becomes smaller and smaller. Globalization has compelled companies to equip themselves to be able to compete in the world market and Toyota sees the strategic position of the Philippines for exports in the region.

The firm believes in the Filipino workforce, its abilities and sense of commitment.

Spirit of Challenge

As Toyota rides through the globalized world arena, it meets the challenges posed by an increasing business environment that has no boundaries – with passion.

Toyota applies the same passion in meeting the demands and challenges of the ASEAN region, and the Philippines' strategic location in the region makes it an important part of Toyota's global network.

In every market, Toyota responds directly to the needs of the people and the Philippines is no exception. Its Asian Utility Vehicle, the Tamaraw, is a vehicle that has helped many small businesses and Filipino families tremendously. It has the number one share of the market for a total of ten years.

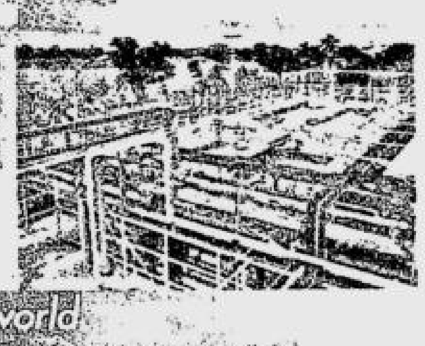
In every community where the company operates, Toyota strives to be a responsible corporate citizen; close relationships with people and organizations in the local community are essential contributors to mutual prosperity. Around the world, Toyota participates enthusiastically in community activities ranging from the sponsorship of educational and cultural programs to international exchange and research.

ISO 14001 Certification

ISO 14001

TOYOTA Motor [illegible] manufacturer in the [illegible] certification togeth[illegible] to achieve ISO 1400[illegible] control by raising [illegible] global standards. [illegible] given only to those [illegible] environment quali[illegible]

Environment Care



BEYOND its commitment to growth and development in the Philippines, Toyota ensures that it contributes to environment care. It has an environmentally advanced plant in Santa Rosa, Laguna, which has a wastewater aeration tank that collects all liquid waste from the plant. Dishwater, toilet water, oils and coolants are collected and processed until the water is so clean, fish can live in it.

Exporting to ASEAN and the rest of the world

Toyota Autoparts Philippines Inc.

TAP started operating in September 1992, producing transmissions and constant velocity joints (CVJ). These units can only be produced by highly skilled technicians. The bulk or some 90 percent of the transmissions are exported and used in Toyota vehicles worldwide. TAP generates foreign exchange earnings through exports to ASEAN countries, India, Portugal and even South Africa. To date, it has produced some 1.5 million auto transmissions. This year, TAP celebrates its 10th anniversary.

Making vehicles affordable

Toyota Financial Services Phils. Corp.

TOYOTA Financial Services is the newest company formed by Toyota to serve its customers better. Toyota Financial Services provides loan packages exclusively to buyers of Toyota vehicles.

Providing such a service is a worldwide strategy of Toyota that has been successful in countries like Thailand and Australia.

The Financial Service aims to make Toyota vehicles more affordable to Filipinos.

Corporate responsibility

Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, Inc.

LESS than two years after it started operations in the Philippines, Toyota set up a foundation, the Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation, Inc. (TMPF), as its social and humanitarian arm.

Long before corporate responsibility became the by-word among local business, Toyota was already practicing good corporate citizenship.

It had always been Toyota's benevolent philosophy to share the company's blessings with society. The country's dream towards development is being realized via the Foundation, which also drew inspiration from the premier mind and spirit behind the Toyota Foundation in Japan.

The list of TMPF's contributions to local communities is long:

- Scholarship grants
- Engine equipment donation
- Public school building donations
- Medical and health services
- Professorial chair
- Library donations
- Specialized automotive training courses
- Community services

Preparing the world for Greener Cars

As Toyota meets the challenges of every nation it is in, it pays just as close attention to the environment and its care. The increasing pollution of the world is a concern Toyota addresses when manufacturing its vehicles. It started with a hybrid of vehicles that is very kind to the environment.

What is a greener car?

Toyota posed this question in 1997, the year it introduced the world's first mass-produced gasoline-electric hybrid car, the Prius. Since then, Toyota has added two more hybrid vehicles to its family. The 100,000th Prius has been delivered. Toyota engineers have become increasingly convinced of the versatility of hybrid technology and now believe it will be around as long as a car continues to have wheels.

Toyota introduced the Prius with hopes that it would be more than a forerunner of cars to come --- that it would also herald an age of new technological diversity and a "de-maturing" of the entire auto industry.

The basic car concept hasn't changed much since the early 20th century. Now "Evolution with Diversity" has become the Toyota mantra, driven by the challenge of environmental concerns. Given projected population increases and their impact on the global environment, participation in a growth

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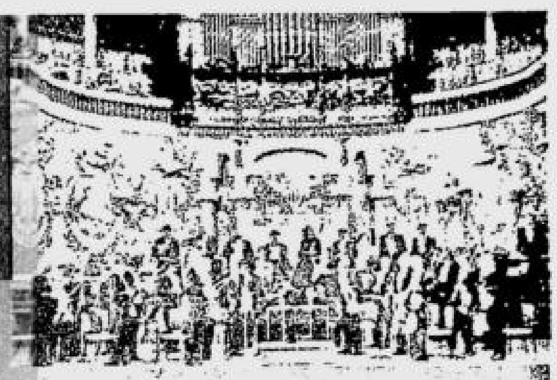


SINCE 1990, Toyota Motor Corporation has successfully combined world-class cars and classical music through its Toyota Classics series of musical concerts. This annual event is Asia-wide in scope and signifies the company's commitment to build a better world through the arts.

The Toyota Classics has already introduced some of the world's finest orchestras, conductors, soloists and other ensembles to a highly appreciative audience composed of the company's valued clients.

This year, the Toyota Classics will set the stage for yet another acclaimed orchestra: the Spanish-based Cadaques Orchestra, famous for its repertoire that combines well-known symphonies with innovative pieces, historical works and premiers of contemporary composers.

Proceeds from this year's Toyota Classics will be donated to Tabang Mindanaw III, a new fund drive that aims to give humanitarian assistance to displaced Filipinos. Toyota Classics will be supporting Tabang Mindanaw III's mission to provide them with livelihood opportunities that will enable them to settle and sustain their lives in the country.

TOYOTA

BUSH INTERVENTION

Asia sees glimmer of hope in US port lockout

SINGAPORE—Asian manufacturers and shippers got a hint of hope on Tuesday in the crippling port lockout on the US West Coast as Washington waded into the dispute and Mexico unloaded a fraction of the stranded cargo.

The shutdown of 29 ports from Seattle to San Diego, which handle $300 billion worth of goods a year, has kept about 200 ships off the coast and threatens to kill much of the Christmas cheer for companies on both sides of the Pacific.

Singapore, home to the world's second-busiest container port and a major supplier of electronics to the United States, said it could weather a short-term disruption but warned of the broader impact of a protracted impasse.

"So far no major effects," Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry Tharman Shanmugaratnam said at the East Asia World Economic Forum in Kuala Lumpur. "Obviously the cost to the US and the world economy will be substantial if it is prolonged."

Six Mexican ports are relieving some of anxiety by unloading Asian goods, including auto parts and bananas, that will be sent northward by road and rail.

"We received 10 or 12 ships up to last Friday but that figure will increase," said Francisco Avila, coordinator of the ports and merchant navy department at Mexico's communications and transport ministry.

With the Christmas shopping season kicking in, retailers worry about having enough toys, computer games and other goodies as US port management officials warn it could take six to seven weeks to clear the backlog of containers once the ports reopen.

Some holiday items may have trouble making it on time after a dozen shipping lines—including Maersk Sealand, the world's biggest—stopped accepting bookings for cargo from Hong Kong, Taiwan and other Asian ports to the US West Coast.

US President George W. Bush has intervened in the dispute that has strangled trade between Asia and the United States since port managers locked out 10,500 dock workers on Sept. 29.

A day after negotiations broke down on Sunday, Bush signed an executive order creating a board of inquiry under the 1947 Taft-Hartley Act that will report to him by Tuesday on the economic costs of the lockout and the positions of the two sides. *Reuters*

Banks healthy despite losses, Greenspan says

PHOENIX—Federal Reserve Chair Alan-Greenspan said on Monday that despite a sharp climb in business failures and investor losses in recent years, the US financial system remains in good shape.

At commercial banks, troubled loans— including charge-offs, classified loans and delinquent credits—have also climbed to quite high levels," the Fed chief noted in an address delivered by satellite to the American Bankers Association in Phoenix.

"At the same time, banks in this country remain quite healthy—with strong profits and rates of return and with capital and reserves not much below recent historical highs," Greenspan said.

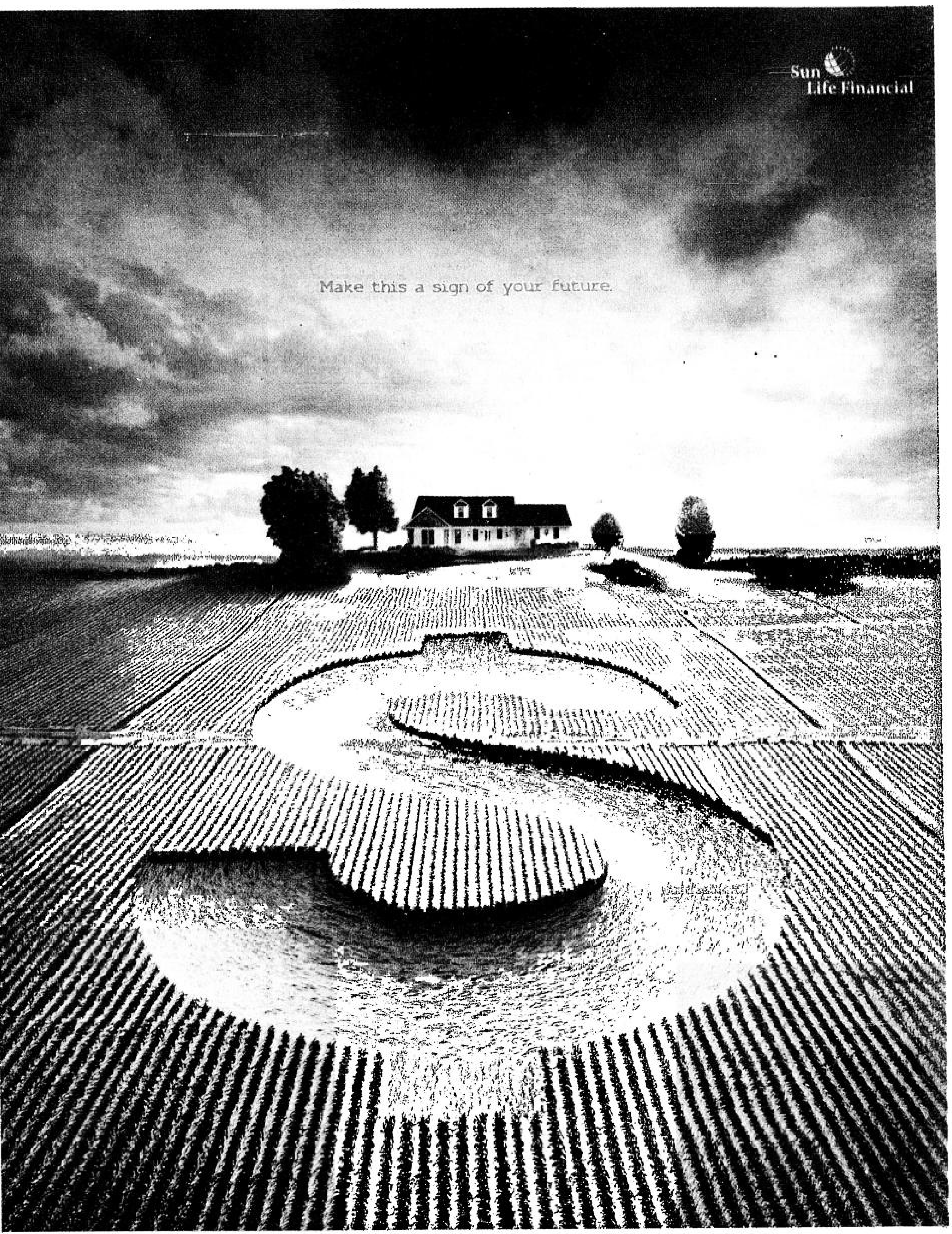
Banks have done a significantly better job at remaining strong during the current business cycle than was the case in the early 1990s "when so many either failed or had near-death experiences," Greenspan noted.

He said the fact that banks had strong earnings and balance sheets "going into the current period of stress" was important because it meant they could spread their portfolio risks across a broader range of customers by applying effective management techniques to keep risks in check.

Low mortgage rates have encouraged households to keep buying homes and helped keep consumption spending at brisk levels, and consumer and mortgage loans have helped banks offset losses from other lending, Greenspan said.

He said banks deserved credit for improving their ability to apply effective risk management to their business, as they did in 1998 when the Asian economic crisis and Russia's default led US banks to quickly raise their credit standards.

I am aware of no other time when banks began so much before the cyclical peak to be highly sensitive to potential risks in either new or existing credits," Greenspan said, adding that helped them remain in healthy financial condition. *Reuters*



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RULES AND REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE BI-PLRA MOA Dated August 6, 2002

Rule I. Definitions and Basic Guidelines

Section 1. Title. – These rules shall be referred to as the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Extended Stay Retiree's Program.

Section 2. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, the following definitions shall apply:

a. **BI** shall refer to the Bureau of Immigration;
b. **PLRA** shall refer to the Philippine Leisure and Retirement Authority;
c. **MARKETER** shall refer to individuals, partnerships, corporations or law firms (whether based in the Philippines or abroad) who are accredited/authorized by PLRA to promote the extended stay program.
d. **PROGRAM** shall refer to the new PLRA initiative to attract the extended stay of retirees;
e. **PROGRAM PARTICIPANT** shall refer to any foreign national-natural person who enters in the Philippines for the purpose of stay at one or at a series of resorts, hotels or establishments that are accredited either by the Department of Tourism (DOT) or by the PLRA, or any corporation duly authorized by the PLRA to accredit such resorts, hotels or establishments as being suitable for accommodating extended stay foreign retirees, *provided that*, said foreign national has contracted with said resorts, hotels or establishments, directly or indirectly, to remain in as **PARTICIPANT** for not less than a continuous four week (28 calendar days) period;
f. **SVV** shall refer to a Special Visitor Visa that allows for a 31-calender day stay in the Philippines, provided that, its holder remains a program participant; and
g. **SRVV** shall refer to a Special Retiree Visitors Visa that allows for a one year extended stay from the date of (i) arrival in the Philippines and (ii) contract to stay at one or at a series of resorts, hotels or establishments accredited by the DOT or by the PLRA or any corporation duly authorized by the PLRA to accredit such resorts, hotels or establishments as suitable for accommodating the extended stay of foreign retirees.

Rule II. Controls for the Issuance of SVV

Section 1. Persons entitled to SVV.- SVV shall only be issued to program participants who appear on an Arrival List provided in advance by the MARKETER to the BI and PLRA.

Section 2. Contents of the MARKETER Arrival List. — The MARKETER Arrival List shall contain the names, passport numbers, carrier's name and voyage/flight number, and the expected dates of arrival of each program participant at least five days before the scheduled date of arrival of each program participant.

Section 3. Reception of Program Participants. — Program participants arriving, shall be received at the designated port of entry by a MARKETER and authorized PLRA representative who shall assist the program participants by ensuring, at all times, **full compliance with BI entry procedures and requirements**.

Section 4. Admission of Program Participants. **21-Day Visa and Ten-day Service Fees**. — Upon proof of full compliance with BI entry requirements under Section 3 of these Rules, the program participant shall be admitted as a temporary visitor (special) for a continuous 31-day stay in the Philippines. For this purpose, in addition to the regular 21-day visa fee, the program participant shall be assessed a service fee of P500.00 for the ten-day stay.

Rule III. Controls for Conversion from SVV to SRVV

Section 1. Application for Conversion — A program participant may apply for conversion of status from SVV to SRVV upon written request to the PLRA authorized representative within ten (10) days prior to the expiration of the 31-day stay visa in the Philippines.

Section 2. PLRA Endorsement to BI. — PLRA-approved applications for conversion of status from SVV to SRVV shall be endorsed within the ten-day period to the BI for approval, subject to BI requirements. For this purpose, the program participant concerned shall be assessed by the PLRA a service fee of US$200.00. No request for conversion of status from SVV to SRVV shall be entertained by the BI, unless endorsed by the PLRA. BI shall charge the Program Participant its usual change of status fees.

Rule IV. Controls for the Temporary Stay and Departure of SVV and SRVV

Section 1. Monitoring Temporary Stay of SVV and SRVV. — PLRA and its participating resorts, hotels or establishments shall at all times account and be responsible for monitoring compliance by all program participants under SVV or SRVV status. Non-compliance by program participants shall immediately be reported by the PLRA and/or its participating resorts, hotels or establishments to the BI, for appropriate administrative action under Commonwealth Act (C.A.) No. 613.

Section 2. Monitoring Departure of SVV and SRVV. — PLRA and its participating resorts, hotels or establishments shall at all times be responsible for the prompt departure of all program participants, upon the expiration of their SVV or SRVV status which are non-renewable. Program participants who fail to depart from the Philippines upon the expiration of their respective SVV or SRVV shall be immediately reported by the PLRA and/or its participating resorts, hotels or establishments to the BI, for appropriate administrative action under C.A. No. 613.

Rule V. Other Provisions

Section 1. Limitation of these Rules. — These Rules shall not in any way diminish or prejudice the powers and prerogatives of the BI, as provided by existing laws. Further, the BI reserves the right to suspend or revoke these Rules, at any time, in the interest of national security, public safety and public health.

Section 2. Separability Clause. — If any clause, sentence or provision or section of these Rules shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining part shall not be affected and shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 3. These Rules shall take effect 15 days after compliance with publication requirements, as provided by Executive Order No. 292 (series of 1987).

(Sgd.) ANDREA D. DOMINGO
Commissioner
Bureau of Immigration

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

MERCEDES

1994 M BENZ E 320, P1.5M A/T, SUNROOF, MINT GREEN
Call 3656149

MITSUBISHI

90 GTI GALANT 09189226359

OTHER CAR BRANDS

PAJERO SURF HI-TOWN ACE TERRANO SAFARI TROOPER PRADO DELICA ELF CANTER PORTER BONGO w/warranty A1 912-6976•0917-8342020

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4530295

ABC-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, REVO, L300, HiAce, MB100, Altis, Honda, Cefiro, Lancer, Corolla, Lynx, Corona, Exalta, Mazda, Sentra
Manila H.O. 5368822/3039789
Q.C. Br. 4262278 4264084

Cheap Van 8254058 8261045

CAR VANS 941-2546

★Vans Coaster Bus 440-9171

HI-ACE L-300 9296250

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

STAREX L300 CARS 7260380

TOYCO TRANS SELF DRIVE CARS/VANS RENTALS 8006505

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 7262780

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

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2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

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ANY ROLEX
and Other Swiss Watches
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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OTHER EQUIPMENT

Coffee Roastr 09174874061

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DOG TRAINER 4528681

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Phil. Dog School
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B/SELL EDUCL PLAN 8061574

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P.Books/ Magz/Shoes/Bags
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Filing Cab; REF;Stereo;Piano
Call 373-2723 ; 373-2724

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FOR AS LOW AS P450T@ IN RUNNING CONDITION.
AS IS WHERE IS. FOR INTERESTED PARTY CALL:
Tel: 521-5163 / Cell: 0917-340-3846
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TICKETING OFFICER
WITH BASIC/ADVANCE CERTIFICATE
Call: 521-6546

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FOR SALE
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CONCRETE PUMPS
CEMENT SILOS
TOWER CRANES
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WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
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MISCELLANEOUS

Doghouse 3x3 FT 6341212

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

BUSES/TRUCKS

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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MISCELLANEOUS

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HOME APPLIANCE

Salad Master 09178101848

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

BANGKO SA LUPA NG PILIPINAS
Quezon Ave., Extn. Cor Raymund Jeffrey Rd., Pala-o, Iligan City
Tel. No.: (063) 221-3444, 492-1009, Fax No. (063) 516-727

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with 10% bid bond for the purchase on CASH BASIS of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Land Bank of the Philippines, Iligan Branch, Iligan City** not later than **November 5, 2002,** Wednesday at 3:00 P.M. at which place, date and time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of closely clustered top bids (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open auction in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID
A 69,098 sq.m. agri/eco-tourism land (mountain resort) covered by 6 TCTs situated at Taytay, Ditucalan, Iligan City with the following improvements: **1-Main & Upper Clubhouse** **2-Lower Clubhouse** **5-Kulintang Cottages** **4-Agus Bahay Buildings** **2-Swimming Pools** **1-Elevated Water Tank** **Detached Kitchen/Bodega** **1&2/Servant's Quarter** **2-Function Buildings within Hotel Village** **2-Bahay Sarunay within Hotel Village** **3-Row Houses** **Souvenir shop/Admin. Bldg./Info.Bldg.**	**P 40,740,000.00**

Bidding forms may be obtained from the Office of the Head, Iligan Lending Center, Land Bank of the Philippines, Quezon Ave. Extn., Pala-o, Iligan City, Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above listed properties before entering their bids. The sale of properties shall be **"AS-IS-WHERE-IS"**. The winning bidder/s shall take possession of the awarded properties without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder/s shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

LAND BANK RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN AND TO ACCEPT THE BID MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE LBP SHALL BE FINAL AND BINDING.

RENE Q. GALLO
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, REGIONAL HEAD
REGION 10

(PDI--Oct. 7, 9 & 11, 2002)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A large and established multinational company
is seeking qualified applicants for

MACHINE OPERATORS

- Completed at least 2 years in College or vocational/ technical course
- 25 years or younger
- At least 5'6" height for males and 5'2" height for female
- Proficient in Windows Applications (Word, Excel, Powerpoint) and Adobe Photoshop
- With pleasing personality

Qualified and interested individuals may forward their comprehensive resumé with their transcript of records and 2x2 picture not later than October 15, 2002 to:

M.C.P.O. BOX 1816
MAKATI CITY

GIA

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70 year history of excellence in education
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giathai@ksc15.th.com www.giathailand.com

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A multinational company and product leader in its industry is looking for dynamic individuals to join its organization.

Service Technicians

- Graduate of Electrical, Electronics of ECE
- Proficient in computers, both software (Windows applications and Adobe Photoshop) and hardware (networking and digital peripherals)
- 29 years old or younger
- With excellent interpersonal skills and can immediately establish rapport with a broad range of people
- Fluent in both oral and written communications
- Analytical, resourceful and flexible (open to be reassigned anywhere in the country)
- Strongly driven fresh graduates may also apply.

Take the challenge and submit your comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

M.C.P.O. BOX 1816
Makati City

Deadline for submission of application is on October 15, 2002.

A dynamic and progressive multinational company is urgently in need of

WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

- ⇨ Has a university degree, preferably major in Accounting and Management Engineering
- ⇨ Has a minimum experience of one (1) year in warehousing, production, transportation, order and billing, inventory planning, cycle count or accounting operations
- ⇨ Has good analytical skills
- ⇨ Has good oral and written communications
- ⇨ Knowledgable in Forklift Operation (preferably with license)
- ⇨ Must be computer literate (Excel, Word, Power Point)
- ⇨ Knowledge in SAP environment is an advantage.

Qualified and interested individuals may forward their comprehensive resumé with their transcript of records and 2x2 picture **not later than October 15, 2002** to:

M.C.P.O. BOX 1816
MAKATI CITY

A U.S. affiliated Company
Has immediate openings for

CAD OPERATORS
ARCHITECTS
ENGINEERS

- with engineering design experience
- Salary is commensurate to experience (pls. state salary)

Fax or mail resumé and work references with photo to:

Mr. ELDY YAP
Telefax 921-3956
Email: eldy@uplink.com.ph

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

Bookkeeper, w/ exp.; Acctg. Clerk, w/ or w/o exp. Apply at Floor Center, EDSA cor. Danlig St., Mkt. Tel.# 8834794

Doctors & Therapist for Dagupan, Naga, Angeles, Las Pinas Call Naty 721-9227 • 721-9228

Promo Girl/RATS 4X4 Alabang 18-25 y/o 7725659

MALE/FEMALE

URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp DIRECT HIRING Call 9134470 AMOR

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FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★ CANADA ★
IMMIGRATION HANDBOOK Complete Do It Yourself Kit w/Official Application Form 936-2098 / 817-5511 / 894-4950

★ CREDIT COMPANY NEEDS ★
MGNT TRAINEES
M 25-35 y.o., must have honor/scholarship preferably, from Davao or Iloilo. Salary Benefits neg. Apply 1F MPI Bldg. 1052 EDSA Magallanes Village, Makati

★ CREDIT COMPANY NEEDS ★
SOLICITOR/COLLCTR 21-40 y.o., preferably from Pampanga or Nueva Ecija. Apply 1F MPI Bldg. 1052 EDSA Magallanes Village, Makati

H2O Treatment **(4) TECH Ref. & A/C TECH** or Eng'g UnderGrad exp. in H2O Soft., H2O Filters, Central A/C & Boiler Oper'n Male, pref. 22-30yrs old, reside in Laguna or Batangas **H2O TREATMENT ANALYST (1)** Grad in Chem. Tech or Chem Eng'g. UnderGrad exp. in InternalExternal H2O Treatment Analysis, Male or Female, 22-30 yrs. resde in Laguna or Batangas. Fax Resume@9113568 or e-mail: bethsd@pacific.net.ph

★OFC STAFF START ASAP!★ 18-45 w/ w/o exp 9134470 RICA

HRD STAF 09193711442 FATIMA

HRD STF 09194639391 IRIS

HRD STF 5512388 MR OLAN

Ofc Staff / HRD Start ASAP w/ Hi Salary 7279971 Mr. Bean

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

OFC STAFF 09178969388Vishla

OFC/MKTG STAFF 4217569

OFCSTAF LUK DONA 09163832647

Office staff 09186532375Molly

Tindera M/F 746-0187 Graphic Artist, Technician Computer Events & Bazaar Coordnt 746-0187• 687-4298

URGENT Office Staff w/w /o exp. 9317245 Jasmin

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5276418

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of March, 2002 on Sept 23, 2002 10am, Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Corazon Aro Talento was extrajudicially settled and distributed among her heirs as per Doc. No. 1672, Page No. 56, Book No. 92, Series of 2002 of Notary Public Leonardo I. Irapta of Makati City. (PDI-10-9,16,23,2002)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Adult wear consign 3738821

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NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 6

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
G6-2002-011

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-GENCO 6 invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements:

SCHEDULE	ITEM/DESCRIPTION	PR NUMBER
	DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 5, 2002; 10:00 AM	
A1 2 PCS.	SPECTROPHOTOMER, UV-VIS, UVMINI-1240	3MAK-02-0528
A2 1 LOT	ALUMINUM ALLOY TOWER	3MAK-02-0421
	DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 5, 2002; 2:00 PM	
B1 70 PCS	JO' RECONDITIONING OF PRINTED CIRCUIT BOARD OF GENERATOR EXCITATION AND FIELD CONTROL SYSTEM	3MAK-02-0327
	DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 6, 2002; 10:00 AM	
C1 2 SETS	VALVE, BUTTERFLY, STEAM CONTROL 28" DIA. KUBOTA	3TIW-02-0006
C2 1 SET	GENERATOR PURGING GAS, MONITORING SYSTEM, RIKADENKI, KOGYO	3TIW-02-0003
	DATE OF BIDDING : NOVEMBER 6, 2002; 2:00 PM	
D1 2 SETS	BATTERY, LEAD ACID, STATIONARY	3TIW-02-0091

NOTE: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules on:
1) A2 - OCTOBER 22, 2002; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
2) B1 - OCTOBER 22, 2002; 11:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
3) C2 - OCTOBER 23, 2002; 10:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room
4) D1 - OCTOBER 23, 2002; 11:00 am at SLRO Bidding Room

Complete sets of Application Form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from Procurement, Traffic and Warehousing Services (PTWS) Section, Administration Division, GENCO 6, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 starting October 10, 2002. No bid documents will be issued on the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the SLRC Bidding Room, NPC-SLRC, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals willb e opened in the presence of attending bidders.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with ***"Executive Order 40"***.

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/ Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit - One percent (1%), Bank Guarantee - One and a half percent (1.5%), Surety Bond - Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC-GENCO 6 reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following; a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) R.H. HERRERA
Chairman-BAC

(PDI - Oct. 9 & 17, 2002)

Our Company is in need of

CIGARETTE DISTRIBUTOR

A leading Import and Export Company is looking for Regional Distributors (except Regions 1, 2 & 3) to Distribute its **Worldwide Branded Cigarette.**

Applicant-Firm must be able to meet the ff. requirements

- Must have a good record in the business community.
- Must have a well-established network of dealers and wholesalers of basic consumer products in its area of operation.
- Must have the financial capability and facilities to support and sustain increasing sales volume as market expands.
- Initial investment will be required for Regional Distributors
- Must submit a copy of Company's Profile and History, SEC or Business Name Registration and Bank Reference.

Interested parties may ask for an appointment
Tel. Nos. 831-2322 / 550-5489

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

ROXAS BLVD.
WEEK-END
MARKET
Opens Nov. 9
P250/day
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ERRATUM

In the ad of the Department of Transportation and Communication Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC) published in this paper October 8, 2002 logo should have been:

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC)

instead of Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS SELECTED AIRPORT (TRUNKLINE) DEVELOPMENT PROJECT Special Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (SPBAC) as printed.

OUR APOLOGIES

GOODYEAR PHILIPPINES INC.

Alabang-Zapote Road, Brgy. Almanza
Las Piñas City

INVITATION TO BID

Goodyear Philippines Inc. is inviting interested bidders in the sale of its tire manufacturing machineries, equipment, and assorted metal scraps at its closed Marikina Plant at 124 Fortune Avenue, Parang, Marikina City.

Major items for bidding are as follows:

1. **Bunbury Rubber Mixer** (US Make)-Kobelco F270 mixer driven by 1500 HP DC motor (with spare), Reliance Electric Drives and Controls, Farrel Gearbox and Chronos Richardsonson oil & carbon charging systems. Complete with batch-off twin mills driven by 400 HP synchronous motor, Lufkin gearbox and new cutler hammer medium voltage controller.
2. **Extruder Unit** - 10"x8" hot feed duplex extruder driven by Reliance Drives and DCS automax controls with complete conveyor system and skiver cutter, 203mm. & 254 feedscrew dia.
3. **Kao-Yeh Slitter Machine** - Model KY-A4, S/N-98011, Mfg. Date - 1995 complete with turret and wid-up assy.
4. **Force Variation Machine** - tire uniformity tester machine, Akron standard, US Make, TUG LTX, TU937, 27-2509-00, date: September 29, 1990. Complete with conveyor and hydraulic system.
5. 3-units **Grader and Earthmover Tire Building Machines** (F-Machine, ASM#1 & #2). Complete with main spindle, tread & bead stitcher, and bead setter assemblies. Conventional Controls.
6. 2 units - **Bias Tire Building Machine** (HAAS #1 & #2), Model: 2600TBM, Complete with ply, tread, bead setter and spindle assemblies. Controlled by Alien-Bradley PLC 5 & Fincor Drives.
7. 1 unit - **Bias Tire Building Machine** (TOYO) - 6 ply server & 1 tread server with conventional control.

Interested bidders may inspect all items for bidding from **October 14 to 18, 2002** from **8:00 a.m.** to **3:00 p.m.** Bid forms together with bidding rules can be secured at the site during inspection dates. Sealed bids should be submitted to **Mr. Reggie Macaraig, Purchasing Manager**, at **Goodyear Philippines, Inc., Alabang-Zapote Road, Brgy. Almanza, Las Piñas City** from **October 21 to 23, 2002.** Opening of bids will be held on **October 25, 2002.**

Goodyear Philippines Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Company. Goodyear Philippines Inc., likewise, assume no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

For details, please call Mr. Jesus R. Sagun at telephone no. 941-7275.

(PDI - Oct. 9, 2002)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION
Fourteenth Offering

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is accepting bids for the sale of seventy three (73) residential lots in Monterrazas Village, Brgy. Tuding, Itogon, Benguet with areas ranging from 283 to 901 square meters and base prices ranging from P1,100.00 to P4,500.00 per square meter under credit terms.

Interested parties may secure the bid documents for a non-refundable fee of P200.00 from the NHA Project Office located at the D'Castellamonte Bldg., #12 Otek St., Baguio City.

SCHEDULE: The submission of the Pre-qualification requirements will be received during office hours from **10 October 2002 to 31 October 2002.** A pre-bid conference will be held on **7 November 2002** at 2:00 PM. Sealed offers will be received from 8:00 AM to 12:00 NN on **14 November 2002** which will be opened at 2:00 PM of the same day. All transaction will be held/ entertained at the NHA Baguio Project Office.

The NHA reserves the right to reject or all bids, call off this tender prior to bid acceptance and call for new tender under amended rules as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI - October 9, 2002)

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

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Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
MANILA, BRANCH 5

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
MINOR FELISE MICHAEL USITA

Sp. Proc. No. 00-98712

SPS. CELESTINO MARIANO & FELICIMA R.
GOSIEN-MARIANO,
Petitioner.
x-----------------------------------x

AMENDED ORDER

In a verified petition filed with this Court by petitioners, **SPS. CELESTINO MARIANO** AND **FELICIMA R. GOSIEN-MARIANO** through counsel, they pray that after due notice, publication, and hearing, judgment be rendered granting the adoption of the minor **FELISE MICHAEL USITA.**

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court hereby sets the initial hearing of this petition on October 23, 2002 at 8:30 in the morning, during which time and date all interested parties are cited to appear and show cause if any why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioner in a newspaper published, edited, and of general circulation once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, and a copy of this Order with the petition be served upon the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor of Manila and the DSWD-NCR. The Department of Social Welfare and Development-NCR is hereby ordered to conduct a Social Case Study as required by law and to submit to this Court the Child Study and Home Study Reports and their recommendation on the matter at least one week before the scheduled date of hearing.

SO ORDERED.
Manila, March 25, 2002

AMALIA R. ANDRADE
Judge

(PDI - Sept. 25, Oct. 2 & 9, 2002)

TONIGHT RJ ROCKS AT MANDARIN HOTEL

Congressman Raul Villareal & wife Julita dancing with the crowd.

Tina with husband, famous photographer Rupert Jacinto.

Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental GM, with RJ Jacinto.

Boots Mayer, Leo Valdez, Danny Samonte and Rosary Ysmael.

RJ's successful "Rock the Boat" cruise survivors had a reunion party at **Captain's Bar** at Mandarin Hotel on October 2 to witness the opening of RJ's weekly Wednesday performances.

The Mandarin Hotel is now home to RJ's infectious and undying brand of retro music on Wednesdays. Watch RJ tonight! There are dinner/show packages. For those arriving after dinner and just want to walk-in, only a first-drink charge is required.

Call for reservations at 750-8888 extn. 2104.

Schedule: 747 Band - 8:30-9:30pm
RJ - 10:00-12:00pm
747 Band - 12:15-1:30am

'How can I encourage employees to stay?'

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE BRAVO

DEAR WW: My little embroidery business has hit a major milestone: I just hired my first employee. I lucked out and got a real hard worker, but now I'm worried about keeping him. How can I make him want to stay?

No Go

You've probably never tried "six-day" underwear. It's a Japanese invention that I read about in the News of the Weird. The underwear has three leg holes. Each day you rotate the garment one hole to the right, then after three days you flip it over to get three more days...

I don't know how it's selling in Japan, but given the ventilation in most offices, I'm sure glad it didn't catch on here. Some things really need to change! And, then again, some things don't. Like your company values--the way your company treats its customers and employees.

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

The best way to keep your employee(s) happy is to treat them with respect, which you can do by following all those basic maxims you learned from mom. Rhonda Abrams offers them up in her new book called (appropriately) "Wear Clean Underwear: Business Wisdom from Mom." (Villard, 1999). I've adapted the following points from it.

1. I don't care who made this mess, just clean it up. Accidents happen! And sometimes work feels like a debating society where people endlessly dispute the blame rather than doing something about it. Establish a different value in your company by fixing things first and asking questions second.

2. It's not the end of the world. There's a belief about workers today that they "just don't care" about their jobs. But talk to employees and you'll find a different story. If anything, they care too much! (A secretary told me recently that she has nightmares about disconnecting her boss.) So assume the best about your employee(s), and instead of managing with a whip, manage with a thank you.

3. Eat your vegetables or you won't get dessert. You've got a great new employee, not a slave, so don't skim off the treats and leave him with the brussel sprouts. Everyone needs a balanced diet of projects on his plate.

4. Share. Many businesses get stuck in a vicious cycle. Bosses withhold key information; employees, feeling slighted, withhold their commitment to the company; bosses feel less inclined to share information; employees feel further disconnected. Break this cycle by sharing everything you can about how the business is run. Share the financial sheets. Talk about the costs of doing business. Explain the big picture. Share.

5. Wear clean underwear (what if you get in an accident and somebody sees it?). My mom, when I was growing up, asked about my underwear daily. But only recently did I get what she was saying: that it's important to do the right thing even when people can't see it. (Yes, mom, I'm wearing clean underwear as I type this.) So keep your underwear clean--and your employees are apt to stay close.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: What is valued the most at your company?
-The employees, 7.1 percent
-The customers, 22.6 percent
-The bottom line, 70.1 percent

B.W. in Memphis, TN had the most interesting view on values, or maybe it should be the lack of values, at work. "I am on my way out the door from my current job. Although I really like the type of work I do, I am fed up with values I see coming out of my boss. As the bookkeeper, I know my boss has two farms, a thriving business on the side, a fancy condo and, of course, the business I work for. I keep all the accounts. I know how much money he makes and what his expenses are. Yet, in the two years I've been there, I have never gotten a raise. I had to beg for almost a week to get a box of new manila folders to begin the new year's filing. I am constantly bombarded with how 'broke' he is and how he isn't making any money. I know it's "bunk" and I'm tired of feeling like just another expense to him."

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com*)*

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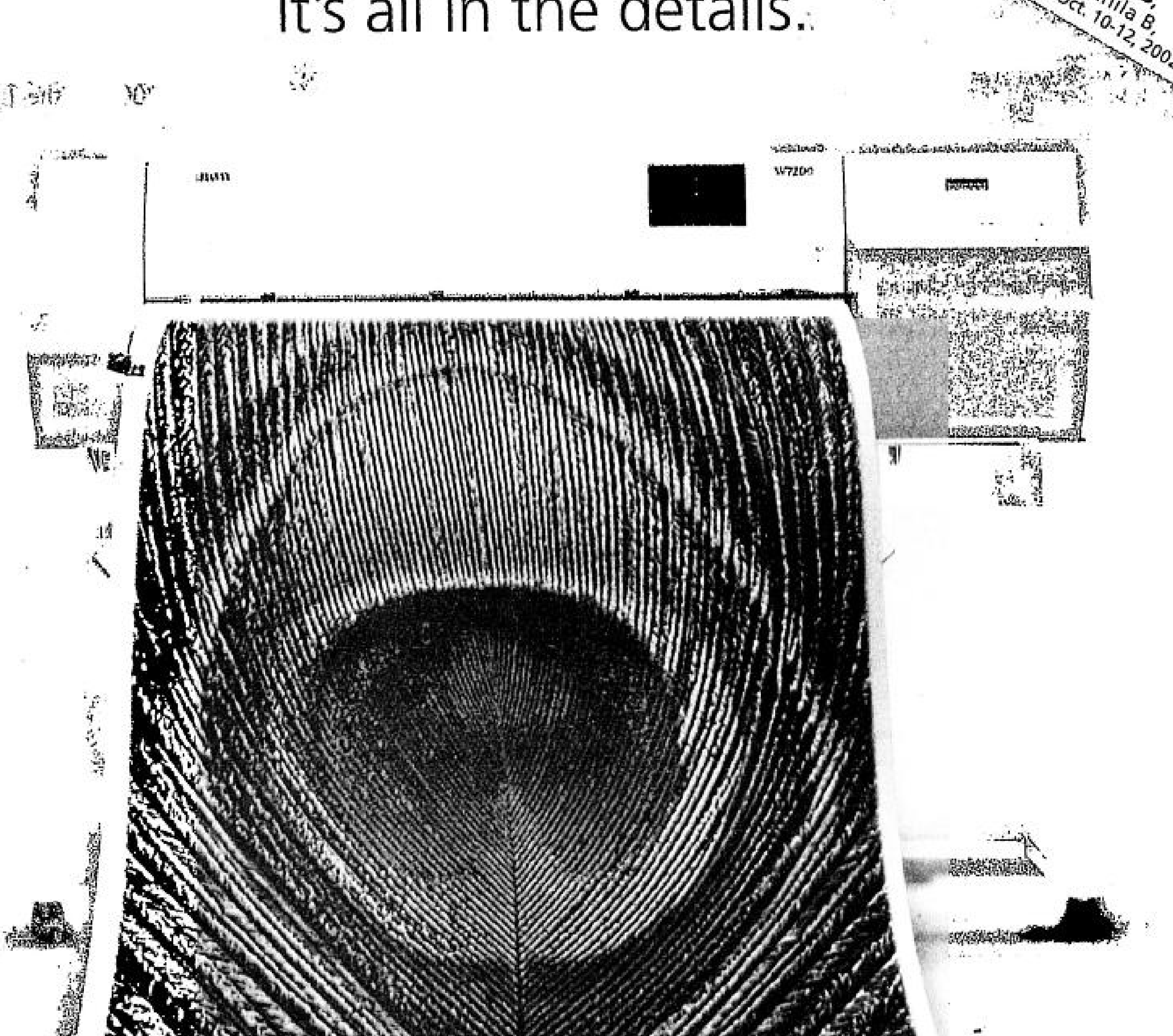

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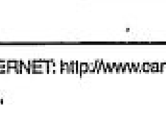

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Canon

Working dads...

From page B0

career and happy family at the same time? Can one have a high-power, high-stress job and still have time left for family and relaxation? When can juggling two class acts become too much? People at Work's segment in Studio 23's Breakfast recently tackled the issue of "how to create work/family balance that works" from a working dad's viewpoint.

In that segment, Breakfast host Ria Tanjuatco and McGraw Hill marketing executive Jenny Javier interviewed Anthony Pangilinan, president and chief trainer of Business Works, a management and consultancy company that conducts training programs. He also happens to be a familiar face on television as a newscaster and host. Below is the gist of that interview.

PaW: What are the major work/family issues?

Anthony: For working people, life balance isn't an option or just a nice idea. Rather, it is crucial to one's success and significance as a person. Employers and entrepreneurs should realize that without work/life balance, productivity and money are lost. So, to remain in business, give yourself and your people more balance.

Balance isn't about dropping your work and watching your kids' football game. We usually think it means prioritizing family over work. That's a bad interpretation. Rather, it means living a more holistic life. It means looking at your spiritual, physical, relational and professional areas of life when you start working out your schedules and making sure you take care of the "total person," or you lose out in the end. It also means getting out of bed and working out on a Sunday morning to get you fit enough to face the Monday ahead. It's hard work.

PaW: How can you recognize and make time for the important things in life?

Anthony: You must spend some time figuring out what is really important to you as a human being and as a unique individual. Believe it or not, we are already making time for what we perceive to be important at the moment. But the sad reality is our lifestyle doesn't respect the fact that we are human beings. So, we end up killing ourselves as we live a life of excesses. We don't really spend time to determine what is really important to us so we spend time on what the world says should be important to us.

PaW: How do you make a living and respond to your family responsibilities at the same time?

Anthony: By recognizing, committing to and daily "living" out the philosophy that making a living is half the responsibility; having a life with your family is the other.

PaW: Is there a single right way to create balance in your home and work lives?

Anthony: I think that while the general parameters and overall process are universal, the content and specific approach are very personal. We all need to accept that the human body must be nurtured, protected, fed and "worked out" to live. We also need to make choices as to what should have precedence over others in our lives. Balance won't just happen. For example, were you able to achieve balance on a bike the first time you sat on it? It is lifelong process. You stop peddling your "bike," you fall.

PaW: How can you strike a balance that is tailor-made to one's career and family?

Anthony: Determine that you want a balanced life so you can be more productive. Outline the "givens"--your pay at the moment, your state of health (don't do 20 laps if you just had a stroke or can't swim), your spouse's current emotional state--then, map out a plan of action that both stretches and adjusts to you.

PaW: How can you cope with the stress of trying to achieve work/ life balance?

Anthony: You should have a personal vision, a knowledge of reality, and a whole range of personal management skills. One should also have the ability to say no and to honor our yes.

PaW: What advice can you give for organizations so that they can help their employees live a balanced lives?

Anthony: My advice to employers is: if you want to keep them, take care of them. And while under your care, if you want them to produce, keep them "fit and running."

I am inviting people who want to learn more about work/life balance and parenting to attend the First Philippine Parenting at the Fort on Oct. 26-29, 2002 at the NBC Tent. They can listen and interact with parenting advocates, educators, celebrity sports heroes, church leaders, showbiz stars and management consultants. They can log on to www. Philippine Parenting.com or inq7.net, the official on-line partner of the convention.

(For more live discussions on work and career issues, watch the People at Work segment every Tuesday on Studio 23's Breakfast which airs from 6:30 to 8 a.m. weekdays.)

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Our Dearly Beloved

MILAGROS MAGAT MACAPINLAC

Of Minalin, Pampanga

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 07, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her husband **Arturo** (†) & bereaved sons, daughter and in-laws **Tito & Raffy, Virgilio** (†), **Dodo** (†) & **Janette, Al & Emma, Amarna & Ben**; grandchildren; brothers & sisters & other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at chapel D, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

The date and time will be announced later.

RAMON A. GAVINIO

13 June 1916 - 7 October 2002

Went to be with the Lord God his Creator on October 7, 2002.
*In paradise he joins his wife **Nicasia Gavinio**, and daughter **May Jean**.*

His children **Leni, Nedi, Ibarra, Ramon Jr., Jesusa, Marcelino, Rita, Marilou**, and **Milrose**; and other family members thank everyone for their prayers and help in their time of sorrow.

His body will lie in state at Jacinto Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque, on Tuesday, 8 October and at the family residence at Bachiller Compound, Aquende Drive, Legaspi City, Wednesday and Thursday, 9-10 October. Interment will be at the Bicol Memorial Park on Friday morning, 11 October.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 4:13

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
FELOMINA V. BERMUDEZ	Oct. 09	8:00 AM	Holy Gardens Matutum Memorial Park, Polomolok, South Cotabato	Guijo St., Lantana Subd., Cannery Site, Polomolok, South Cotabato
DEMOCRITO D. RENOS	Oct. 09	12:00 NN	Holy Gardens Matutum Memorial Park Polomolok, South Cotabato	Brgy. Magsaysay, Polomolok South Cotabato

www.holygardens.com

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

Beloved Father and Lolo

DOMINGO CANTOS LIRA SR.

of Quezon City and Batangas City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 7, 2002
at the age of 90.

His children **Goings** and **Bembi**, **Cecilio** and **Lita**, **Cecilia** and **Nhoth**, **Efren** and **Yoly Lira**; grandchildren **Hale Erwin**, **Sharon Christina**, **Martin King**, **Patricia Kennedy**, **Andre Jose**, **Amelia Fe**, **Aaron Paul**, **Ferdinand**, **Omar Dexter**, **Marc Jason**, **Lyra Theresa**, **Alain Marcellius** and other relatives thank God for having blessed us with a father like him and for his peaceful passing.

His remains lie in state at Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, St. Joseph Chapel, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., New Manila, Quezon City, and will be transferred to Batangas Basilica Church Mortuary on Thursday, October 10, 2002.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002, 1:00 p.m. at the Batangas Catholic Cemetery, Batangas City.

JESUS B. BLANDO

of Bangued, Abra

President: *Aging Filipino Veterans Foundations & Veteran- Civilian Freedom Fighters*
Member: *Knights of Columbus, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States*
Retired *B.I.R. Chief, A Veteran of World War II*

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 5, 2002 at the age of 80.

His wife **Peregrina**; children **Corazon, Jacqueline, Paul, Cristina, Theresa, Isidora, Mary Jane** & **Juliana**; brothers, sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Resurrection Chapel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish near Claret School, UP Village Quezon City, back of Quezon City Hall.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 12, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

FELICIANA DE LOS REYES VDA. DE PANTIG

Of Catbalogan, Samar & Valenzuela City

Peacefully joined her Creator on October 6, 2002
At the age of 88.

Her bereaved children **MELLY & DEOG** (†), **PLEBIE** (†), **LENA & EDDIE, LYDIA & NONONG, MIKE & PAULA, TERSING & RICK, JUNIOR & FELY, JOSIE, EMMY & BABETH, WINNIE & TEETAH**, grandchildren & great grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at **Arlington Memorial Chapels**, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 13, 2002 at the **Holy Cross Memorial Park**, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

The children of **Justiniano R. Borja** (†), former Mayor of Cagayan de Oro City, and **Dulce Valdehuesa Borja** (†), namely **Albert** and **Cecile Chiongbian**; **Chitong** and **Christine Sagarbarria**; **Romulo** and **Geraldine Borja**, announce with complete resignation to God's will, the demise of their eldest sister

GIGI V. BORJA

(26 October 1942 – 7 October 2002)

The body lies in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Parlor on Real Street Cagayan de Oro City. Interment will be in the morning of Thursday, 10 October 2002 at the Greenhills Memorial Park, Bulwa, Cagayan de Oro City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC) invites interested contractors to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids for the following services at Naga Coal Terminal Naga, Cebu:

WOR No.	DESCRIPTION	PRE-BIDDING CONFERENCE	APPROVED BUDGET
CCT WOR 07 01	**Janitorial Services**	October 10, 2002 10:00 a.m.	PHP 427,570.00
CCT WOR 07 02	**Stevedoring & Arrastre, Terminalling & Hauling Services**	October 10, 2002 2:00 p.m.	PHP 3,401,200.00
CCT WOR 07 03	**Security Services**	October 10, 2002 10:00 a.m.	PHP 991,590.00

Only contractors who will comply with PNOC EC's eligibility requirements shall be allowed to participate in the public bidding.

Eligibility and Tender Documents shall be available for issuance at the above address or at PNOC Naga Coal Terminal starting **October 2, 2002** until **October 10, 2002**, upon presentation of a **Letter of Intent** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS Five Hundred (PHP 500.00).

For the purpose of clarifications, bidders are invited to attend the pre-bidding conference which will be conducted on **October 10, 2002** at **Conference Rm. #1, Baseline Restaurant, Juana Osmeña St., Cebu City**. Deadline for submission of Eligibility Requirements, Bid Proposal and Tender Documents will be set during the Pre-Bidding Conference.

PNOC EC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part thereof to any bidder/s whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PNOC EC.

This publication is also posted at DBM Website: www.procurementservices.net

(Sgd.) **RICARDO S. BASALLO, JR.**
Chairman, Contracts Award Committee

(PDI - Oct. 9, 2002)

Coolness under fire is new POEA chief's survival tool

By Blanche S. Rivera

She is known for her calm approach in the normally problem-ridden department

COOLNESS in a hotbed of conflict--this was Rosalinda D. Baldoz's survival tool to meet the challenges in a career in labor relations. Baldoz, now the chief of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, started her quiet climb to the top seat of the labor circle as a mediator-arbiter for the Bureau of Labor Relations.

Baldoz, who has spent 27 years in the Department of Labor and Employment, is known for her calm and low-key approach in the normally problem-ridden department.

Composure

It seemed to some people that she lacked a sense of urgency, judging by her composure amid the most pressing issues, like the crackdown on undocumented overseas Filipino workers in many countries.

CAREER TALES

But few know that the POEA chief's lessons on peace and calm leadership went back a long, long way. Back to her family and her faith.

Fresh out of a successful bar exam in 1974, then Rosalinda Dimapilis married her classmate and fellow lawyer, Jaime Baldoz. It was a marriage that lasted only two years and produced one child.

Baldoz, now 52, had been working for a private law firm when she was invited by a classmate at the Manuel L. Quezon University to join the BLR. She accepted, and soon, the lawyer became a peacemaker, a forger of agreements between workers and management.

Her marriage, however, was far from forged and peaceful. They parted ways.

Finding peace

"My work helped. It kept me busy, and I saw that I could easily empathize with the people who had complaints because I did a lot of self-pitying myself," Baldoz said.

She said it was the breakdown of her marriage that led her to seek peace and soon, find God, whom she considers "the real boss of (her) life."

With that principle, Baldoz poured her heart into her job, always considering the sentiments of the parties involved in a labor dispute and guiding them to find solutions to problems instead of walking out on each other.

"It always takes two to make or break any relationship," even professional ties, Baldoz said. She stayed 12 years as arbiter, from the BLR to the National Labor Relations Commission.

Climb to the top

In 1987, Baldoz was appointed to pioneer the National Conciliation and Mediation Board as deputy executive director. She became executive director in 1997.

BALDOZ

The NCMB was an office set up to handle strikes and lockout cases, again requiring the skills and understanding of people who knew how to bridge gaps and restore relationships.

While she forged peace among workers and eployers, Baldoz also made peace with her husband, who by then had a new family, and her in-laws, with whom she and her son have a better relationship now.

In 1999, Baldoz became Labor Undersecretary for Labor Relations and the first Filipino and woman in Asia to be elected chair of the International Labor Organization committee on the application of standards.

"I didn't have all these ambitions. I just did what I had to do where God placed me," she said.

New hotbed

When Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas took over the DOLE, she transferred a relucant Baldoz to the POEA, saying in her endorsement letter to Malacañang that Baldoz's integrity was "beyond question."

But Baldoz soon saw her stint at the POEA as her chance to protect the sanctity of the Filipino family, many of whom suffer from the social impact of having parents working abroad.

"Unlike employees here, OFWs have no one to come home to at the end of the day. There is little support system, which is very important," she said.

She noted that OFWs also often fall prey to abusive recruiters, so she made the resolution of cases against recruiters her priority.

Running start

From March until December last year, the POEA has resolved 2,614 cases of recruitment violations translating to around P52 million in compensation for OFWs.

Many of the cases were filed as early as 1987 but were never tackled by the POEA, which had been subject to speculations of corruption. The average life span of a case in the POEA is now only six months.

When asked if she considered herself successful as a professional, Baldoz would only reply something akin to her acceptance speech, that "it is not really what we get for what we do, but what we become by it that should be more important to us."

The Heritage Manila Hotel appoints new officers

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila (THHM) general manager Joseph Kong is pleased to announce the appointment of Norielle Roldan, as director of marketing, Gioverti Rosales as director of human resources and Ma. Regina Kabigtin as marketing communications manager.

Roldan is an AB Communication Arts degree holder. She has 14 years of solid experience in the hospitality industry. Rosales has 15 years of professional experience in all aspects of human resource management, administration and organizational development. Kabigting has eight years of professional experience in corporate and marketing communications.

The Heritage Hotel Manila is managed by the Singapore-based Millennium and Copthorne International Limited (M&C).

Seminar offerings

DINA Loomis, president of the Southeast Asia Speakers and Trainers Bureau, announces the October public offering of her much sought after program: "English Proficiency" on Oct. 23; "Professional Telephone Skills" on Oct. 24; "Effective Business Writing" on Oct. 29; "A Customer Delight" on Oct. 30 and 31.

For inquiries, call 883-1681, 882-7515, 883-2676 or 883-3085. Graduates of these programs have reported tremendous improvement in their oral communication, self-confidence in answering telephone queries, ability to write business correspondence and to persuade and delight customers.

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Mirant power plants achieve ISO 14001 Certification

Accomplish two environmental compliance milestones

In a span of two weeks, Mirant Philippines' power plants get nod of approval for the highly-respected environmental management standard. Mirant Philippines passed the prestigious ISO 14001 Certification audit for its power station in Pagbilao, Quezon — just two weeks after its Sual power station in Pangasinan received the certification.

Conducted by the Geneva-based Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS) Group for its Environmental Management System (EMS), the certification earned by Mirant's Pagbilao and Sual power stations demonstrates the company's strong commitment to environmental responsibility.

The ISO 14001 Certification confirms Mirant Philippines' dedication to meet and even surpass the Clean Air Act in its day-to-day operations. The SGS audit also serves as an assurance that Mirant Philippines, with its pool of well-trained engineers, site managers and well-skilled personnel, is a good corporate citizen which consciously protects the environment where its businesses are located.

"The achievement of ISO 14001 Certification by our two power stations clearly reflects to the local communities and the whole country that Mirant Philippines is committed to protecting the environment without putting the welfare of our surroundings at risk," Mirant Philippines Corporation said.

As a worldwide federation of national standards, ISO 14001 Certification is an EMS that helps organizations push for continual improvement in environmental management. It effectively covers environmental management as integrated with an effective EMS that helps assist organizations and companies achieve environmental and economic goals.

"Steward of the environment"

Yet beyond properly managing its business operations, Mirant Philippines — as the country's largest private producer of electricity— is deeply committed to implement several measures to make sure that the environment does not suffer from its unhampered and focused activities.

Mirant complies with, and even exceeds, the requirements of the government's Clean Air Act and other environmental regulations. It implements pollution prevention and control through integrated and participatory management approach. Significantly, its Sual and Pagbilao stations are equipped with the best environmental control technologies available in the market today, like the Electrostatic Precipitator and Flue Gas Desulfurizer for Sual, which are at par with the best in the Asia Pacific region.

Mirant employs the best industry practice in pollution prevention. It is likewise involved in upholding sustainable development through implementation of environmental preservation projects in collaboration with its stakeholders. Work productivity of its personnel is also ensured through health and safety measures.

Above all, Mirant maintains productive relations with local communities and actively participates in socio-civic initiatives such as health and educational programs to uplift the quality of life in depressed areas. The company, through the Mirant Philippines Foundation, is also behind Project BEACON, a program that seeks to energize 1,026 barangays nationwide.

With the ISO 14001 Certification audit, Mirant Philippines is one step closer toward achieving its three bottom lines: business leadership, corporate social responsibility and environmental stewardship.

‘How can I help human capital appreciate?’

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM a human resource manager who attended the recent convention in Cebu of the Personnel Managers Association of the Philippines where you talked on human capital. Please tell me more on the subject. How can we be in the golden age of the human person when so many people are being downsized by companies? What should I do differently as a human resource manager so that my company’s human capital can ‘appreciate?’ What exactly does it mean to be the chief financial officer or CFO for human capital?

Curious HR Manager

The golden age of the human person will happen when people start building themselves up to be the “right person.” In this age which values human capital, you have to proactively build your competencies continuously to anticipate changes in the environment.

> The right people are your most important assets

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Right people

Jim Collins mentioned in his recently published book “Good to Great” that the old adage that “people are your most important asset” is not correct; rather, the right people are. On the other hand, it is also a reality that companies, because of the efficiencies brought about by technology and the need to compete in a global world, will continue to shed jobs and at the same time, create new jobs.

Annie Brooking defines human capital as “the collective expertise, creative and problem solving capability, entrepreneurial skills embodied by the employees of the organization.” She suggests looking at the individual as a dynamic entity who may fit into a variety of jobs over time. The individual needs to be managed to ensure that he has access, opportunity and mechanisms to achieve his full potential within the organization.

The difference between traditional capital and human capital lies in the fact that companies cannot do without people and yet people cannot be owned by the company. Unlike traditional capital they are expensive to hire, train, reward and retain. They have the right to move to the company next door. They get sick and get demotivated. The challenge for companies is to identify the truly valuable people and motivate them through a combination of compensation, personal development and career opportunities.

New role

In this scenario, if I were a human resource person today, what would I do differently? First, I would redefine my role and get out of human resource administration or better still, automate it. I will try to get computer applications that will allow the employee to become self-reliant. With computers, he can file his leaves, check out his benefits, or apply to attend a training program online.

Then, I will position myself strategically to be of service to line managers. I will skill-up to be a performance management consultant. Today, many recognize that performance problems are mainly rooted in the individual’s performance.

I will be a partner to business units in making a success of their business. In this position, I can diagnose problems and audit managers to get their attention to human resource issues. I can also become the “core competency manager” who ensures that the corporate competencies for the current as well as the future business are in place.

In essence, the human resource manager of today should be able to respond to the strategic question: “what quantity, quality and structure of human capital will the corporation need for the future?”

CFO for human capital

Why is the human resource manager looked upon today as the CFO for human capital? Like the chief financial officer who works on the financial statements using typical business measures such as revenues and profit, the human resource manager should also render an annual report on the state of human capital. This report can show how people’s values have appreciated the past year and its impact in delivering bottom line results. It can also show in clear terms the cost of acquiring the wrong people or the loss of valuable human capital when key contributors to the company leave or retire.

The development of human capital is a responsibility not only of the organization but of everyone. Every person has to be responsible for his continuous “employeability.” To ensure this, you can have a life plan, noting the key competencies you have to acquire and actively pursue to ensure that your contribution matters at work.

Our human capital as individuals, as companies and as a nation can “appreciate” for as long as we are aware that we are accountable for our own self-development. To think of the opposite is tragic. People who have stopped learning because they have no access to knowledge, learning and technology would be disenfranchised in this knowledge age. Everyone who wants to have quality of life has to continue to learn and relearn.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@pacific.net.ph *or fax to* 892-2902.*)*

People at Work Live! goes to Laguna

THE PEOPLE at Work Live! Seminar Series goes to the countryside for the first time as it brings its most popular seminars to Southern Luzon on Nov. 23 at the University of Perpetual Help System Laguna in Biñan, Laguna.

From 9 to 11: 15 a.m., Tita Datu Puangco, president of Ancilla Enterprise Development and Consulting, Inc., will discuss “Achieving Your Personal Vision in Troubled Times.” Puangco will explain how having a personal vision can help in achieving one’s dreams.

From 1 to 3:15 p.m., Mariecor Salas Ding, MSD Personnel Development Consultants president, will give a talk on “Developing a Power Image for Leadership.” An expert on personality development, She will show how one can develop personal poise and posture.

The last salvo for the day is Ernie Cecilia, EC Business Solutions and Career Center president, with his talk on “Negotiating Your Way to Success.” Cecilia will provide knowledge and skills on the basic concepts and steps in negotiation.

The November run is made possible by the companies who care for people at work: University of Perpetual Help System Laguna, Inquirer’s Job Market and Job Market Online, INQ7 Interactive Inc., ABS-CBN Publishing’s Metro Working Mom, Edsamail Philippines, EC Business Solutions and Career Center, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., MSD Personnel Development Consultants, Adobo Interactive, and Single Search Philippines.

This seminar series is an event organized by Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants-Laguna Chapter.

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email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Subsection Editor* **Regina Galang Reyes**

BREAKFAST CHAT

Working dads need life balance too

PANGILINAN

By Ricky B. Garcia

(From the numerous magazines on working moms and their travails at work, it seems they're the only ones who need work/life balance, with due apologies to our Working Mom columnist. Are dads expected to have their noses to the grindstone all the time? But hey, here's news for all of us--it is no longer fashionable - nor acceptable for that matter--to have dads tied to work from Monday to Sunday. Moms and kids don't want it; and hurray, many dads don't want it too. Here's a take on this subject from a famous working dad who espouses work/life balance.--PaW Ed.)

PEOPLE'S lives are getting busier all the time. Employees today often juggle work and family responsibilities. Can one have a rewarding

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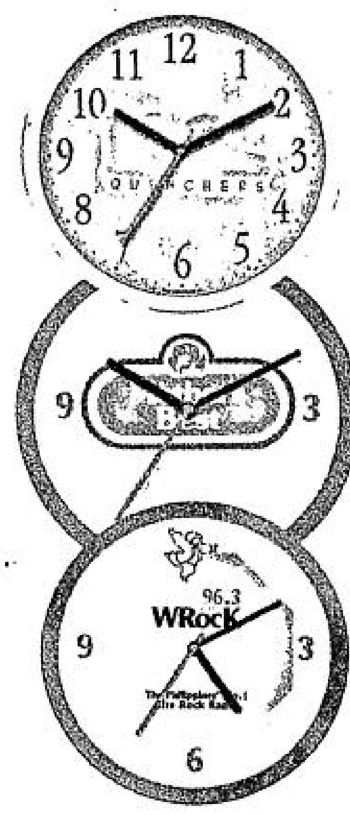

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2bU! LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ® Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

A review revue

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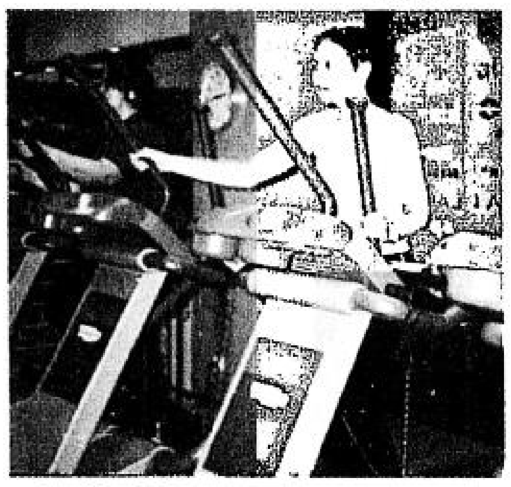
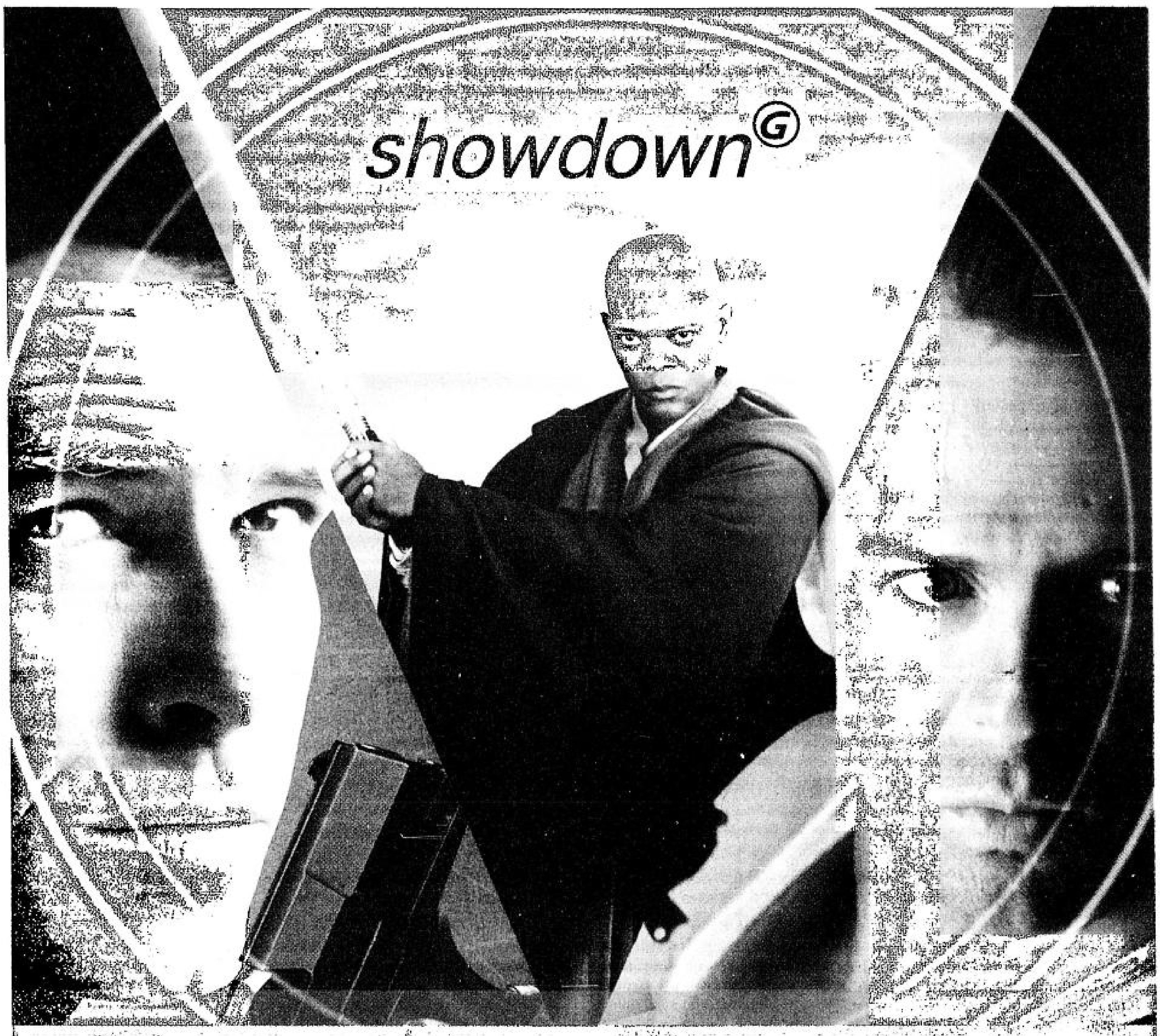
The 2bU! correspondents survey and pass judgment on the latest ads that cut into your favorite TV shows, the music videos of your favorite (and hated) artists, new CDs you might want to check out, chicken cooked the fast-food way, art films that are worth your time, the most popular gyms and a local book that you can get for nothing. We've also thrown in an interview with John Mayer and our very own awards for UAAP's 65th season

Avril Lavigne Let Go





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Calzone, the Italian food wonder

It's food that is bound to be as popular and filling as pizza

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

WHAT'S exciting about RCBC Plaza along Ayala and Puyat Avenues aside from its art exhibits and sophisticated interiors is its own food court named after my favorite verb—Eat.

But that's just half of the story.

Among Eat's array of food choices, one stands above the rest: Calzone.

It's the Italian food wonder. It serves—calzone.

"Calzone" means "sock"; it's a disk of dough, folded over to make a pocket and filled with a variety of ingredients. The standard calzone contains tomato, mozzarella and ham. Like pizza, calzone has many variations. Light zesty red wine is perfect with any variety.

If you love to cook and experiment with fillings, experts say that too many ingredients can cancel out each other so you may end up with "Twilight Zone" food.

But you may experiment with the different varieties of calzone. I like mine over the counter—hot and ready to eat.

Ham and Cheese. This version of calzone is so creamy it slides down your throat. If there were such a thing as "cheese" rush, this would be it. It is so loaded with cream cheese you'd forget that ham is an ingredient. But it would have been better had the service crew paid more attention while reheating my order so that it would not have tasted like I was eating charcoal.

Seafood and Capers. I admit that I am allergic to seafood, but I just can't have this on my forbidden list. Although it would have been better if cheese blends with the taste of seafood, still this is a blast. I was already almost four bites away from consuming it when I thought of looking at the filling. All I could identify was the shrimp and nothing else. Whatever the ingredients were, they made my tummy frolic in satisfaction.

Spinach and Blue Cheese. Popeye wasn't able to convince me that spinach makes a healthy physique when I was a kid (except for spinach on lasagna). But this version of calzone is 90-percent spinach and only 10-percent cheese. Whoever thought of this must be a genius. When I had my first bite, it felt as if all I was eating was nothing but blue cheese. The spinach went perfect with the cheese.

Lamb and Cheese. I had this accidentally when the service crew served me the wrong calzone. I was already home when I knew it was lamb and cheese. Nevertheless, I had a chance to try what I wouldn't normally eat. I found lamb exotic, and this version was nothing but exquisite. It tasted like beef, only better.

Eat's calzone costs P75 and is worth every bite. But I would like to emphasize that customer service comes in first before anything else. No matter how good the food is, without excellent customer service, no food is any good.

Eat is located at 3/F RCBC Plaza Tower 1.

E-mail the author at gilesaquino@ edsamail.com.ph

TV ads that should get zapped

By Alora Mae L. Uy
2bU! Correspondent

UNABLE to get a ticket to the finals of the basketball showdown between archrivals Ateneo de Manila University and De la Salle University, I settled for the premier seat in front of my old television set. Switching to other channels, or even just batting my eyelashes, was out of the question, so I had to endure all the commercials that were aired.

I hate to say this but I couldn't stop myself from wincing since 50 percent of the TV advertisements contributed to an already high stress level.

Where did all the really talented and creative minds go? Or, did I just choose a bad time to watch TV commercials (TVCs), thus missed the notable ones?

Let's take the Hawk TVC for example. The opening scene shows matinee idol John Pratts admiring a big bike. Before he leaves, he sees an old woman struggling to pick up some oranges that fell on the road. He grabs his Hawk backpack, approaches the woman and announces (yes, announce is more like it), *"Lola, tutulungan ko na po kayo."*

While the value the ad is trying to promote is laudable, you certainly don't go around talking the way John does, complete with a smile that seems to proclaim he is worthy of praise even before he actually does something. It doesn't look sincere. A case of bad acting? I do think so.

And the quality of the whole TVC per se? Please! It leaves much to be desired. It reminds me of John's pathetic Cheeseball commercial ("...*sa* Cheeseball, you can't go wrong").

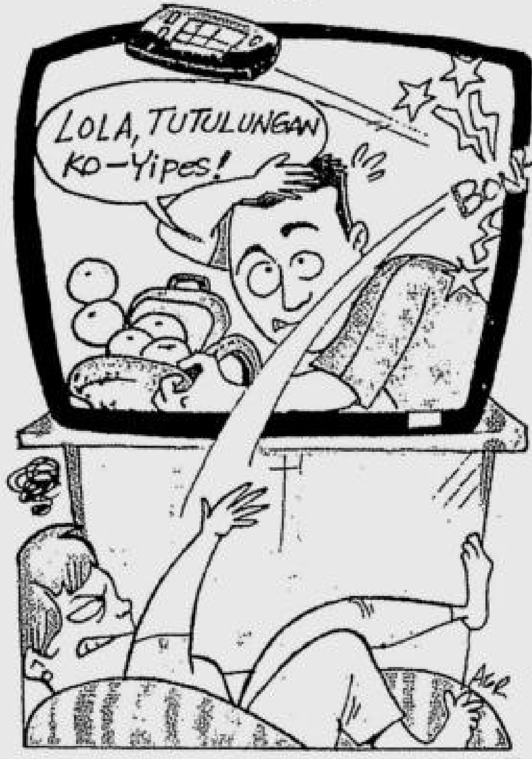

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Disappointing

How about the Close-Up TVC? Have you seen it? I'm sure most of you have since it has been airing for quite some time now.

Getting "blinded by a smile so bright" I can take. Maybe the people behind the TV ad are just using artistic license to stress the point that Close-Up will make your teeth whiter than the last time they were white. The boy-meets-girl theme I can also accept, although I wonder when a new idea will surface. The thing that irks me is the mediocre acting skill of the female commercial model.

Remember the scene where she stumbles? It seems like she is trying to perform a certain dance move—but fails.

Okay, so the model may have the qualities that could earn her a Ms Close-Up award if she joins the Binibining Pilipinas contest but the director should have enrolled her in an intensive acting workshop first.

Downright shoddy

I also wish for a new breed of beauty skin-care product commercials. Instead, what flashes on my screen is another run-of-the-mill kind, the Likas Papaya Herbal Soap advertisement, which shows three people proclaiming the effectiveness of the product. It reminds me of the RDL Skin Care Products and Epiderm-A commercials. Almost everything—from the lighting to the models to the scrip—is a tad too shoddy.

Granted that a small budget is allocated for Likas' advertising campaign, it should never be a valid excuse for people to make a bad TVC.

I could rattle off movies, where directors are not deterred by budgetary constraints and, instead, concentrate on creating a remarkable ad.

Why don't they take their cue from McDonald's "Lolo" TV ad? Devoid of the usual fanfare of most commercials, the advertisement typifies the simple yet classic commercial. No music, minimal lighting, just plain real-life drama about an elderly man and his granddaughter Karen. No wonder the ad has tugged at our heartstrings.

Or how about the latest Fita TVC? It's funny. It's cool. It will make you stop making faces.

What every company should realize is that the quality of corporate communication materials—be it on radio, TV or print—served to the public influences the people's perception of the organization as a whole.

The only consolation that I got from watching the UAAP basketball finals on TV last Saturday was the Blue Eagle's sweet triumph over the Green Archers. At least it made me forget Hawk, Likas Papaya Herbal Soap, RDL Skin Care Products, Gardenia and Ever Bilena—for a few minutes.

E-mail the author at aloxtn3@yahoo.com.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

War of the chickens

A NEW "war" is being fought by the country's top fast-food chains.

Jollibee and McDonald's are now throwing chickens at each other, which is okay since they get to throw them at us consumers, too (not literally of course).

Jollibee has improved its "normal" fried chicken by making it crispier and juicier. It also came out with a spicy version just recently. McDonald's, meanwhile, now has a barbecued version, fueled by the not-so-catchy commercial of Amor Powers and Madame Claudia.

I've already tried Jollibee's "crispylicious, juicilious" chicken and, honestly, I couldn't figure out the difference from the old one. The Spicy Chicken, however, is a different story (or chicken for that matter). It is hot indeed, but it doesn't burn your tongue as other spicy chickens from other fast foods do. The spiciness of Jollibee chicken is just right so you don't have to gulp down water after every bite.

However, that quality has a downside. The ingredients that make the chicken spicy are concentrated on the skin. So, once you get down to the meat, it begins to taste like the ordinary Jollibee chicken. Also, in the case of the wings that I ordered, even some parts of the skin were not spicy at all. Perhaps mass production makes it impossible to have the consistent, spicy taste one expects. Overall, though, I'd say the Jollibee chicken is not bad. A little improvement perhaps may be called for, but nothing drastic.

It would be way better though if the products come in environment-friendly packages, especially for take-out

McDonald's Barbecue Chicken seems a little messy, but once you taste it, *"kakamayin at kakamayin mo rin."* The dish is messy because barbecue sauce is poured all over the chicken, which makes it hard to order it for take-out, unless you plan to eat it at home.

Initially, I had doubts if it was really crispy as advertised since the chicken appeared soggy because of the sauce. But, surprisingly, it was. I could feel and hear the crunch as I ate. The sauce was more sweet than spicy, and there was no need for gravy or any other sauce (made sense). But, again, the barbecue taste was concentrated only on the skin, not in the meat. If you want your chicken barbecued, you just add P5.

It would be way better, though, if the products come in environment-friendly packages, especially for take-out. They wouldn't be having more food wars if they don't stop waging war against the planet.

Jason Doplito, 2bU! Correspondent

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D'SOUND'S Simone, Kim and Jonny

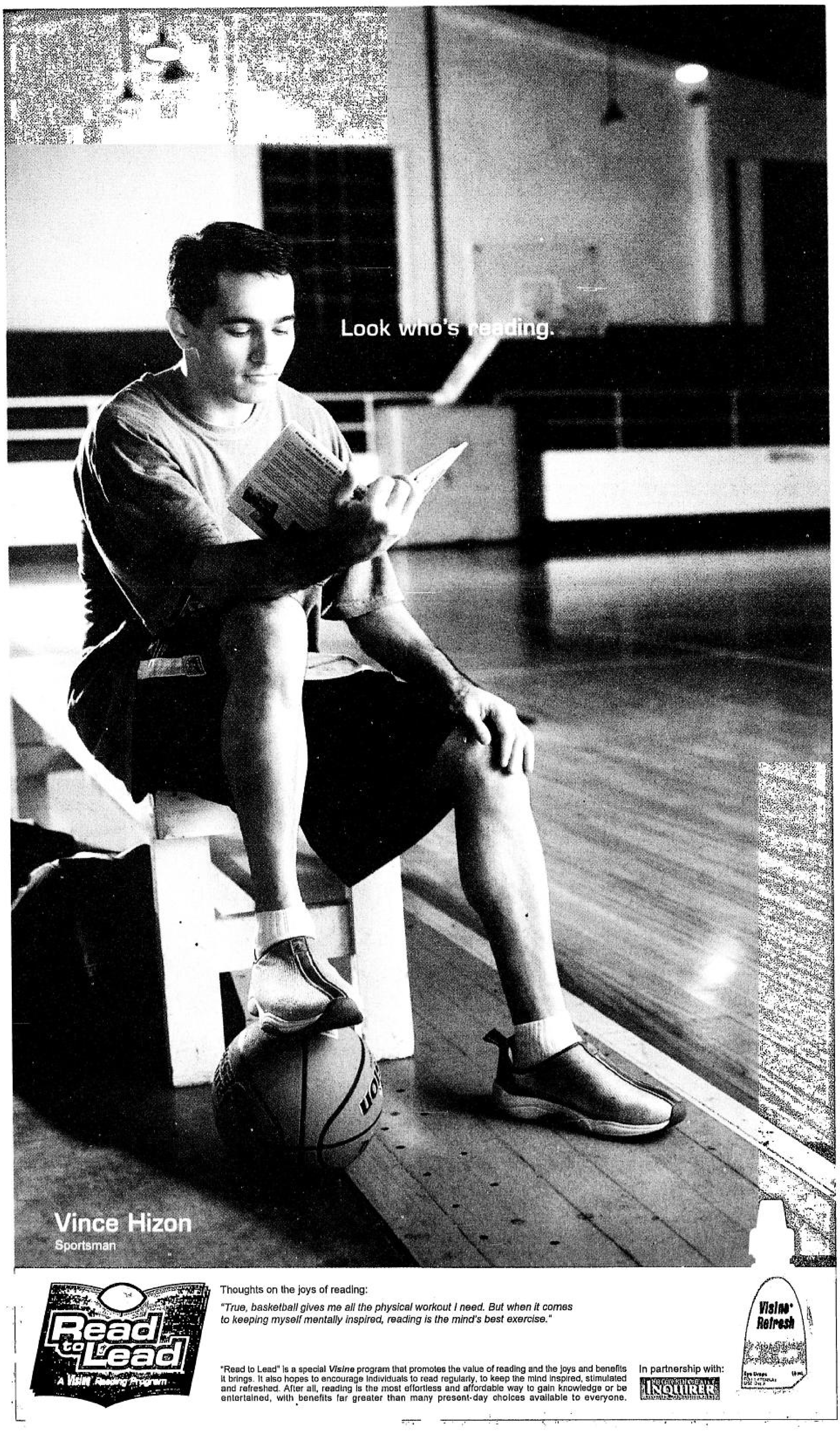
Big party marks launch of youth zone

THE 5TH, Shangri-La Plaza's new youth zone on its fifth level, will be launched on Oct. 12 with a big hip party featuring the country's top DJs, local band Parliament Syndicate and one of Norway's best, D' Sound, which popularized the songs "Talkin' Talk" and "Tattooed on My Mind."

DJs Kimosave, Caliphs, Decypher and Flow 44 will bring the marathon party to a hip start at 5 p.m. on the fifth level. At 9 p.m., the celebration spills over to the Grand Atrium on the second level with the Parliament Syndicate. At 10:30 p.m., it's party time with D' Sound as members Simone, Kim and Jonny dish out their brand of music—a distinct sound resulting from a fusion of elements from acid jazz, soul, funk, pop and drum 'n' bass.

The D' Sound concert is strictly invitational. To get tickets, simply exchange a single, same-day purchase (until 12 nn, Oct. 12) worth P750 at any of The 5th shops for one invitation. Invites can be claimed at the redemption booth on the fifth level (near Bayo) upon presentation of validated receipt.

The 5th will have other exciting activities this month. Call 633-7851.


Look who's reading.
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Sportsman
Read to Lead
A Visine Reading Program
Visine Refresh

Thoughts on the joys of reading:

"True, basketball gives me all the physical workout I need. But when it comes to keeping myself mentally inspired, reading is the mind's best exercise."

"Read to Lead" is a special *Visine* program that promotes the value of reading and the joys and benefits it brings. It also hopes to encourage individuals to read regularly, to keep the mind inspired, stimulated and refreshed. After all, reading is the most effortless and affordable way to gain knowledge or be entertained, with benefits far greater than many present-day choices available to everyone.

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P29
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P29
WANTON BALLS
P29
CENTURY EGG
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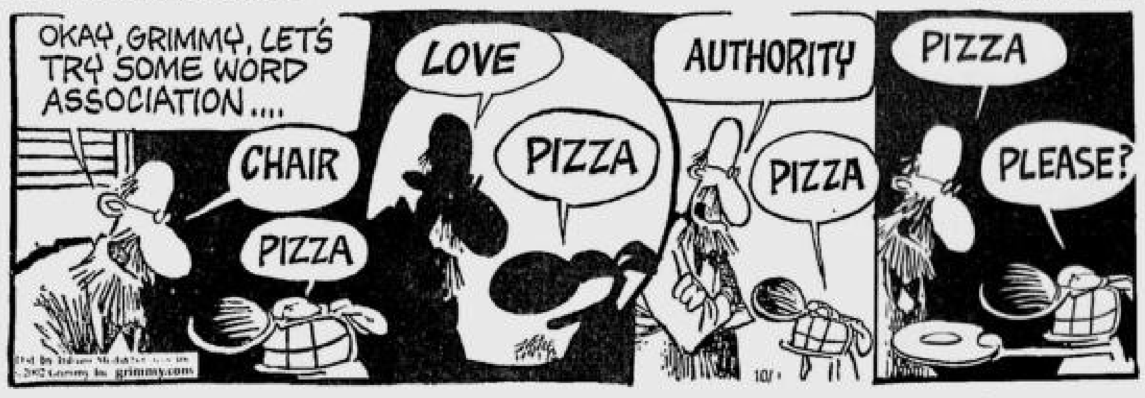
DIMSUM PLATTER
P50
Chowking
Dito kumakain ang masarap kumain.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


OKAY, GRIMMY, LET'S TRY SOME WORD ASSOCIATION....
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PIZZA
PIZZA
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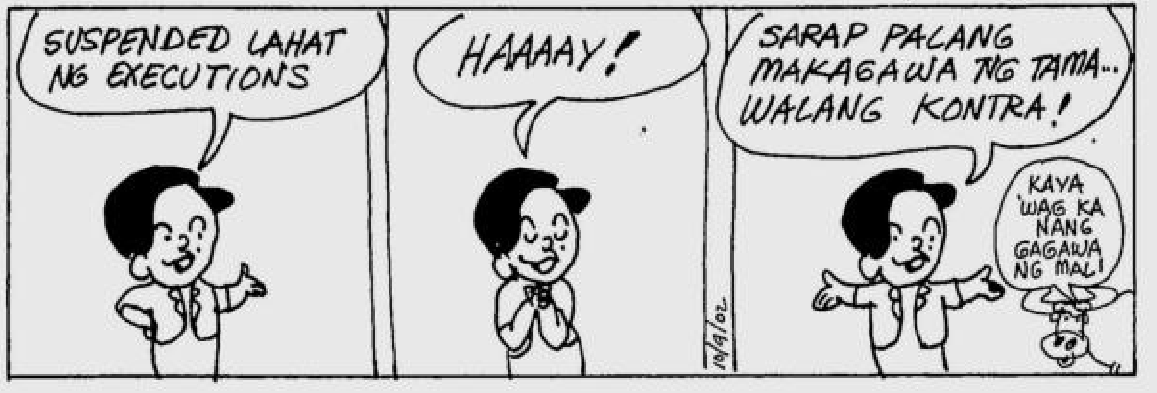
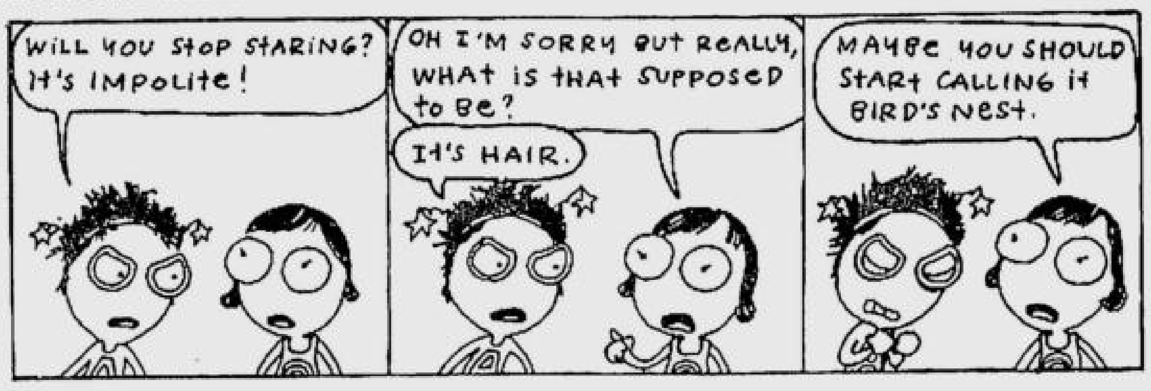
10/

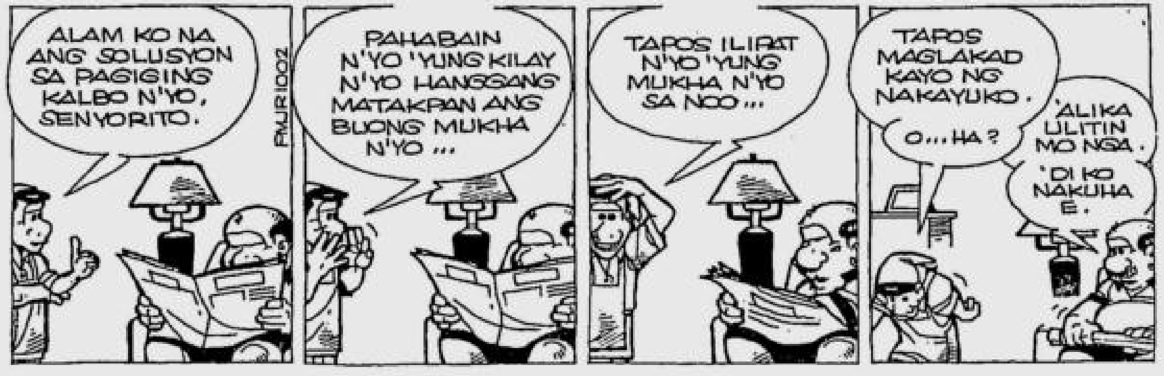
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SUSPENDED LAHAT NG EXECUTIONS
HAAAAY!
SARAP PALANG MAKAGAWA NG TAMA.. WALANG KONTRA!
KAYA 'WAG KA NANG GAGAWA NG MALI
10/9/02

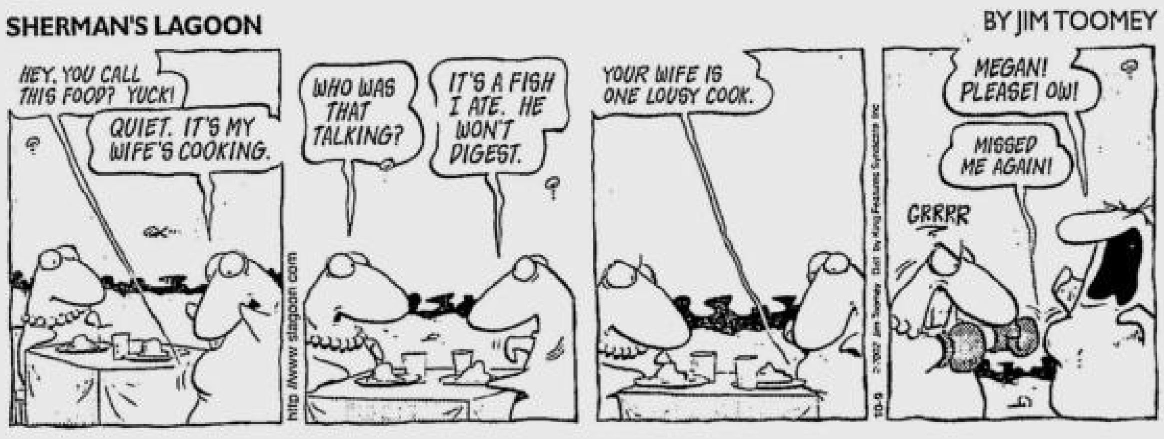
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WILL YOU STOP STARING? IT'S IMPOLITE!
OH I'M SORRY BUT REALLY, WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE?
IT'S HAIR.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD START CALLING IT BIRD'S NEST.

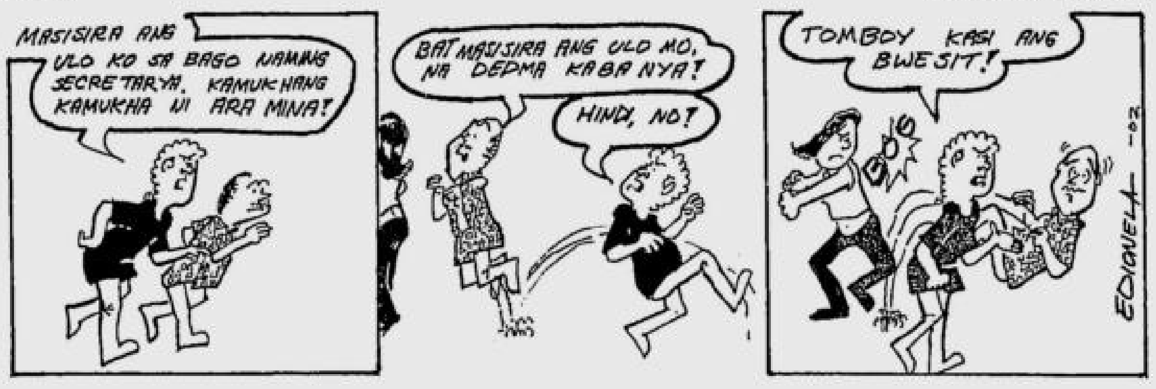
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ALAM KO NA ANG SOLUSYON SA PAGIGING KALBO N'YO, SENYORITO.
PMJR1002
PAHABAIN N'YO 'YUNG KILAY N'YO HANGGANG MATAKPAN ANG BUONG MUKHA N'YO ...
TAPOS ILIPAT N'YO 'YUNG MUKHA N'YO SA NOO ...
TAPOS MAGLAKAD KAYO NG NAKAYUKO.
O... HA?
'ALIKA ULITIN MO NGA.
'DI KO NAKUHA E.

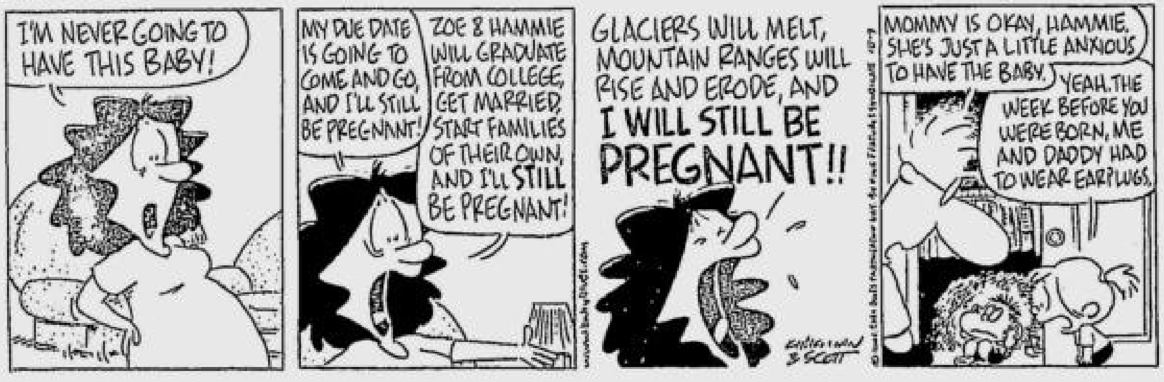
SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY. YOU CALL THIS FOOD? YUCK!
QUIET. IT'S MY WIFE'S COOKING.
WHO WAS THAT TALKING?
IT'S A FISH I ATE. HE WON'T DIGEST.
http://www.slagoon.com
YOUR WIFE IS ONE LOUSY COOK.
MEGAN! PLEASE! OW!
MISSED ME AGAIN!
GRRRR
10-9

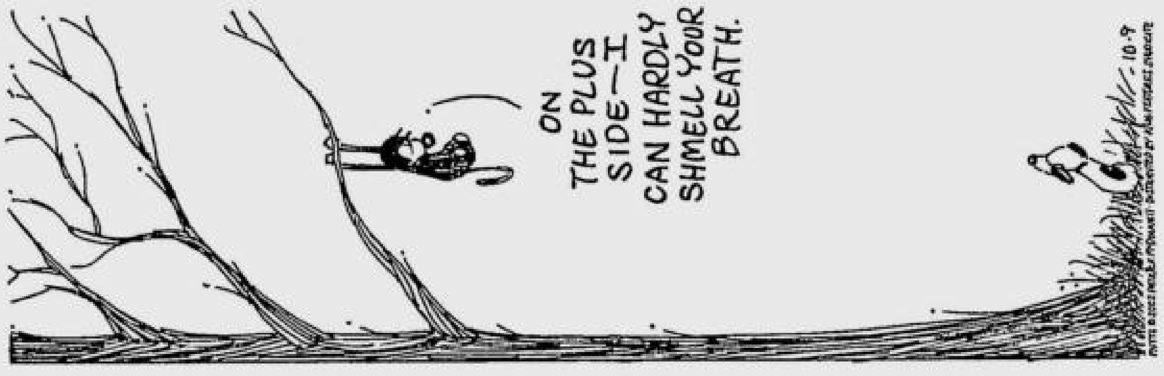
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


MASISIRA ANG ULO KO SA BAGO NAMING SECRETARYA. KAMUKHANG KAMUKHA NI ARA MINA!
BAT MASISIRA ANG ULO MO, NA DEDMA KABA NYA?
HINDI, NO!
TOMBOY KASI ANG BWESIT!
EDIONELA -02

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M NEVER GOING TO HAVE THIS BABY!
MY DUE DATE IS GOING TO COME AND GO, AND I'LL STILL BE PREGNANT!
ZOE & HAMMIE WILL GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE, GET MARRIED, START FAMILIES OF THEIR OWN, AND I'LL STILL BE PREGNANT!
GLACIERS WILL MELT, MOUNTAIN RANGES WILL RISE AND ERODE, AND I WILL STILL BE PREGNANT!!
MOMMY IS OKAY, HAMMIE. SHE'S JUST A LITTLE ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE BABY.
YEAH. THE WEEK BEFORE YOU WERE BORN, ME AND DADDY HAD TO WEAR EARPLUGS.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ON THE PLUS SIDE—I CAN HARDLY SHMELL YOUR BREATH.
10.9

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: John Lennon, Jackson Browne, Robert Wuhl, Zachery Ty Bryan

Happy Birthday: You will have to settle down and take things as they come this year. Although you will have the drive to get things done, you will also have a tendency to focus on the wrong things. Face emotional issues head-on this year. Make some changes with regard to the company you keep. Your numbers are 10, 16, 23, 29, 36, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take care of any personal matters that face your family. An older family member may need assistance from you. If you aren't careful, you will get run down if you take on too much.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There are some challenges in your partnership at this time. You must have patience when dealing with your mate. Insecurities will lead to jealousy and discord in your relationship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Minor mishaps concerning close friends or relatives may lead to disputes. Take better care of your health. Proper diet and rest will be a necessity.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Social events will be most exhilarating. There is the possibility of love in the air. Since your mental attitude is changing, you will attract a different kind of mate.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enjoy a quiet evening with your lover. A lack of attention may have caused your mate to be a little disgruntled. Discuss your future and make plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be vulnerable regarding money. Be discriminating when giving to organizations. Children will cost a lot.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get angry and upset over financial matters. Look at your situation realistically and decide what course of action you can take. A hidden asset may get you out of your financial bind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Problems with older relatives will cause friction at home. You will have to spread yourself pretty thin if you wish to please everyone. Call on others to help in order to take care of all your responsibilities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Educational pursuits will be beneficial. Go to trade shows or attend lectures that will broaden your scope regarding moneymaking ventures. You may want to look into a new business opportunity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can get help from others if you're willing to ask for favors. Tell them what you need. Don't ignore your family or personal losses will follow.

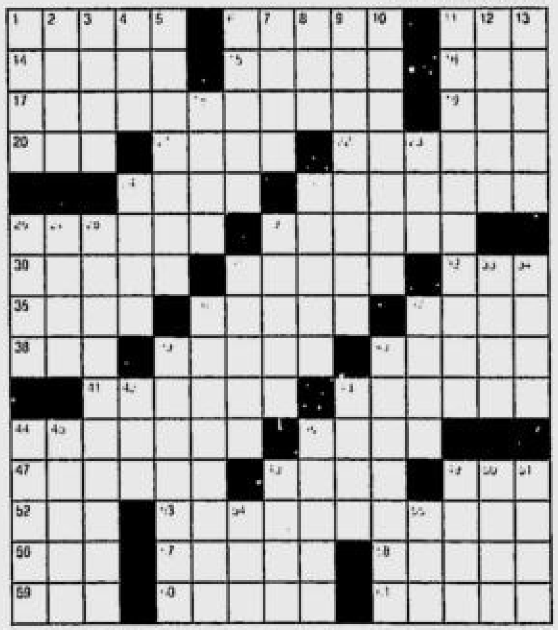
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your need to do your own thing may cause problems with your family. Let them know what you are doing so they feel included. Don't refuse to see both sides of an issue.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Expand your cultural knowledge. You need to get out and experience new forms of entertainment. Use diplomacy and charm when dealing with influential individuals.

Birthday Baby: You will be bold, brave and always ready to help the underdog. You are very giving and must protect yourself from people who will try to take advantage of you today.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com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By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

10/9/02

ACROSS
1 Bow or Barton
6 Curriculum __ (mini bio)
11 Writer Levin
14 Temporary residence
15 During a broadcast
16 San Francisco hill
17 Cultivation of the mind in India?
19 Doris of "Pillow Talk"
20 Shell-game item
21 Not taken in by
22 Ski
24 Not that or the other thing
25 Certifies under oath
26 Burning
29 Like Atlas
30 Perfect
31 Preside
32 Dashed
35 __ at windmills
36 Clearly detailed
37 Commercial transaction
38 Afr. nation
39 Riyadh resident
40 Tropical parrot
41 Cake toppings
43 Convincing
44 Ellipsoidal nuts
46 Maldives capital
47 Kept occupied
48 Royal address
49 Spotter's cry
52 Youth grp.
53 Religious group's safety in India?
56 Road-sign abbr.
57 T.S. or George
58 Sample
59 You betcha!
60 Dispatches
61 Dalmatian feature

DOWN
1 Fellow
2 Theater box
3 Gillette blade
4 Actor Stephen
5 Part of ATF
6 Electrical measure
7 Sondheim musical, "__ the Woods"
8 Sigma follower
9 Place to land
10 Building builder
11 Prayer by a river in India?
12 Luau element
13 Unfathomable chasm
18 Part of CPU
23 Coop biddy
24 Be __ as it may...
25 Video-game pioneer
26 Religious ritual
27 Redact
28 Entrees in India?
29 North American food fish
31 Gulps
33 Bates or King
34 Mr. Gingrich
36 Playground box
37 Wise guy
39 Cranial cavities
40 Bothers
42 Massachusetts cape
43 Irene of "Fame"
44 In check
45 Strong thread
46 Wet sprays
48 Wearing wedgies
49 Additionally
50 Jabba the __
51 Iowa State city
54 Reunion group
55 Shrill bark

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

B	R	A	G	S	■	E	B	B	S	■	A	S	P	S
A	K	R	O	N	■	L	E	A	P	■	S	C	O	T
N	O	T	T	O	O	M	A	N	Y	■	S	A	R	A
■	■	■	A	W	L	■	K	E	G	P	A	R	T	Y
B	A	T	H	M	A	T	■	S	L	U	I	C	E	S
U	P	H	E	A	V	E	D	■	A	B	L	E	■	■
R	E	R	A	N	■	C	R	E	S	S	■	L	A	W
M	R	E	D	■	W	H	I	R	S	■	T	Y	N	E
A	Y	E	■	L	A	S	E	R	■	T	E	A	S	E
■	■	O	M	I	T	■	D	E	H	O	R	N	E	D
B	E	R	A	T	E	D	■	D	A	R	R	Y	L	S
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R	O	O	K	■	S	M	A	T	T	E	R	I	N	G
C	L	U	E	■	K	I	L	O	■	N	I	E	C	E
H	A	R	D	■	I	T	E	M	■	T	A	R	O	T

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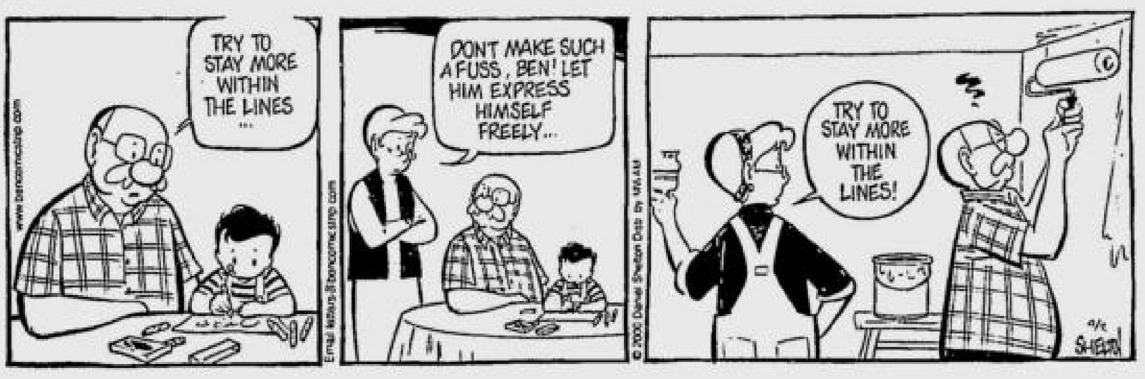
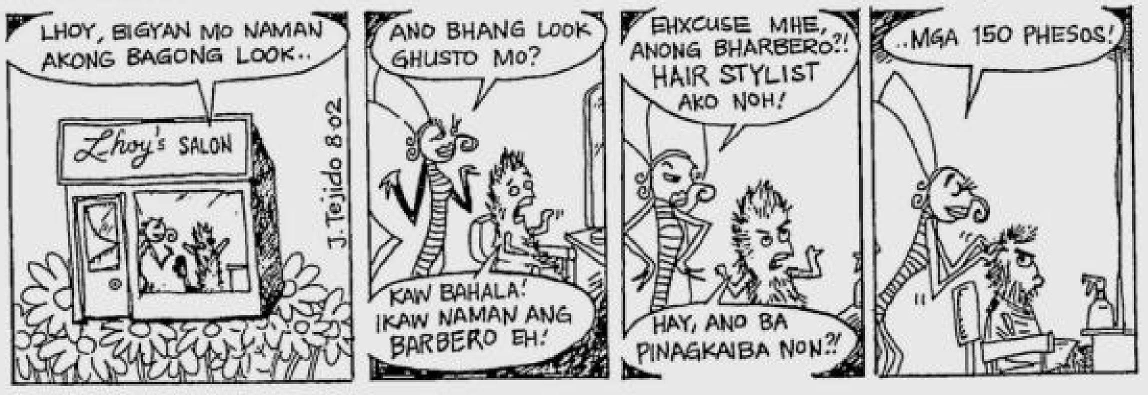
10/9/02

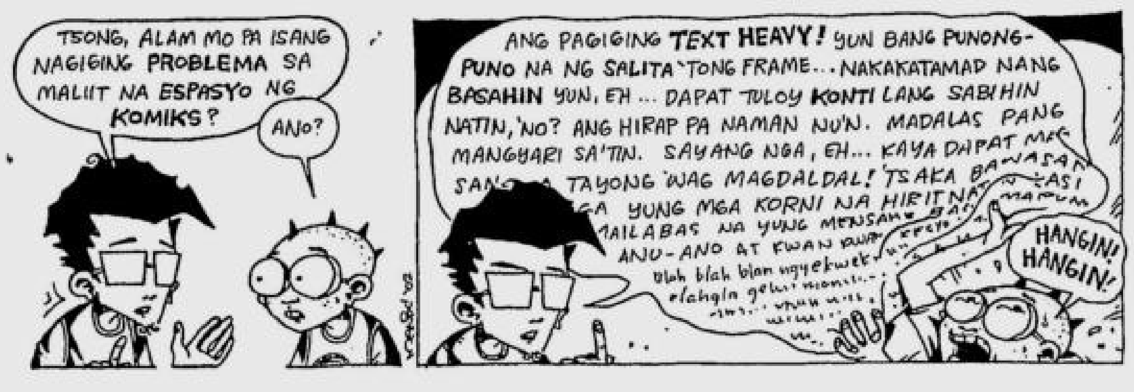
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


TRY TO STAY MORE WITHIN THE LINES ...
www.bencomicstrip.com
DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS, BEN! LET HIM EXPRESS HIMSELF FREELY...
TRY TO STAY MORE WITHIN THE LINES!
SHELTON

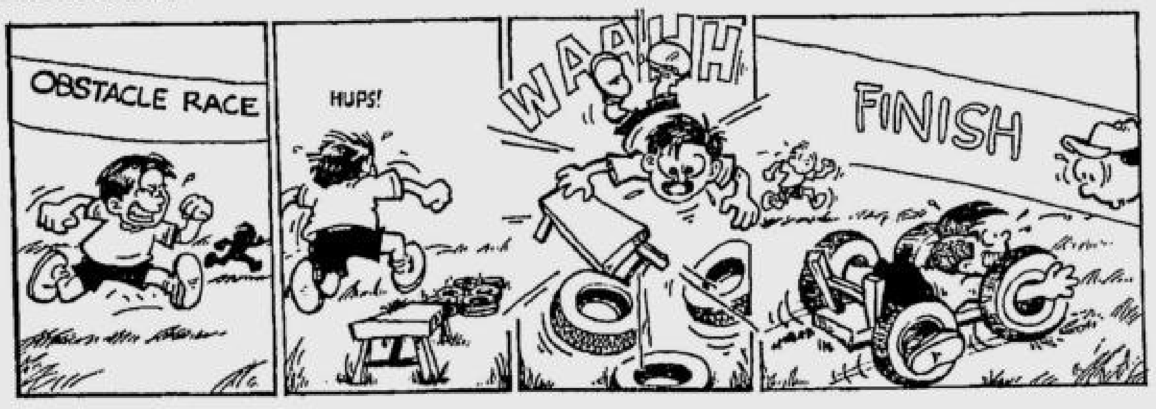
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


LHOY, BIGYAN MO NAMAN AKONG BAGONG LOOK..
Lhoy's SALON
J. Tejido 8.02
ANO BHANG LOOK GHUSTO MO?
KAW BAHALA! IKAW NAMAN ANG BARBERO EH!
EHXCUSE MHE, ANONG BHARBERO?! HAIR STYLIST AKO NOH!
HAY, ANO BA PINAGKAIBA NON?!
..MGA 150 PHESOS!

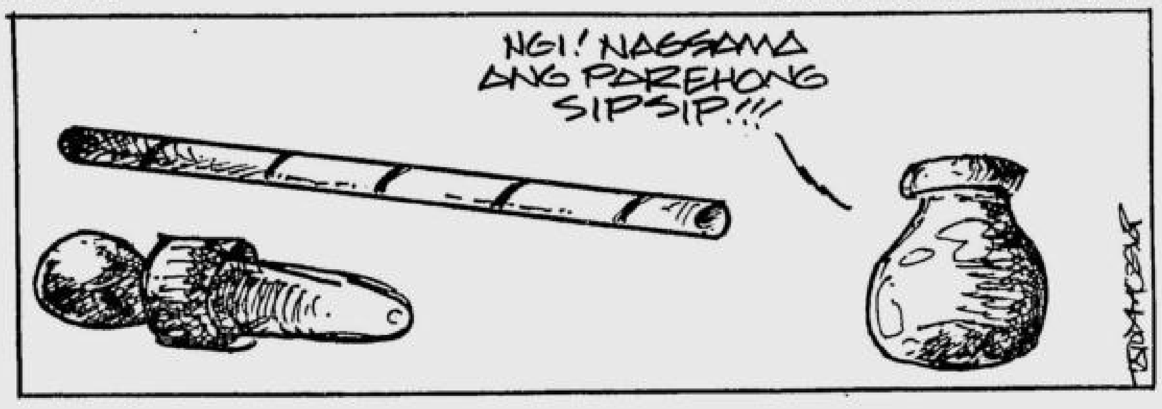
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, ALAM MO PA ISANG NAGIGING PROBLEMA SA MALIIT NA ESPASYO NG KOMIKS?
ANO?
ANG PAGIGING TEXT HEAVY! YUN BANG PUNONG-PUNO NA NG SALITA 'TONG FRAME... NAKAKATAMAD NANG BASAHIN YUN, EH ... DAPAT TULOY KONTI LANG SABIHIN NATIN, 'NO? ANG HIRAP PA NAMAN NU'N. MADALAS PANG MANGYARI SA'TIN. SAYANG NGA, EH... KAYA DAPAT MA
TAYONG 'WAG MAGDALDAL! 'TSAKA BAWASAN
YUNG MGA KORNI NA HIRIT NA
MAILABAS NA YUNG MENSAHE
ANU-ANO AT KWAN KWAN
blah blah blah ngyekwek
HANGIN! HANGIN!

GENG'S GAMES BY AMIEL RUFO


OBSTACLE RACE
HUPS!
WAAAHH
FINISH

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI! NAGSAMA ANG PAREHONG SIPSIP!!!

Euro films' simplicity and subtlety lost on Filipinos

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

AT THE FIRST meeting of my European Cinema class in Ateneo de Manila University, our teacher, Father Nick, asked us to name five European movie stars, who didn't make it big in Hollywood. The class of about 70 students couldn't even name three.

My class' lack of knowledge about European movie actors reflects just how foreign European cinema is to us Filipinos. Why is it not very well appreciated? Perhaps many find European cinema too tedious to watch with its slow-pacing, discreet background music and the use of subtitles. Plus, people have no patience for films with long periods of silence and a lot of dialogues.

What we want is action. We want million-dollar movies with plenty of gimmicks, garish stunts and a sex scene or two. We want flicks like "Titanic," "Lord of the Rings" and "The Godfather." We don't want subtlety; we want the plot served straight up.

Apples and oranges

European cinema and Hollywood movies are like apples and oranges. While American productions are escapist, the European ones are realistic. European movie stars rarely look like Brad Pitt and Catherine Zeta-Jones to titillate the viewers; continental actors look like regular people (unless the story calls for an attractive person) to keep audiences focused on the storyline rather than the cast.

There is nothing wrong with Hollywood movies but you have to experience European cinema at least once. Sit through an entire film and watch as its beauty unfolds. The European cinema's charm is in its sheer simplicity. Witness how the subtleness transforms the film into a powerful medium evoking realizations, feelings and emotions that Hollywood productions rarely achieve.

European movies also tend to linger in the audience's memory long after the film has ended.

Here are three films that capture some of the best qualities of European cinema.

'Cinema Paradiso' (1988)

This is a beautiful and heart-rending film about a unique friendship. Much of this Italian film, directed by Guiseppe Tornatore, is told through flashbacks. In the beginning, we see a middle-aged famous film director, Salvatore, receiving news that an old friend named Alfredo had died. Salvatore begins to reminisce about his childhood and his thoughts take him back to Giancaldo, a small village in Sicily, a few years before the coming of television.

The village had only one movie theater called Cinema Paradiso, where the villagers went for entertainment. We then meet the film's two protagonists: old Alfredo (Philippe Noiret), who operates the projection booth, and a fatherless young boy, Salvatore or Toto (Salvatore Cascio), who is drawn to the booth and makes it his home away from home. With their shared love for films, the two form a special bond.

The friendship is broken with the arrival of Elena, Toto's love interest in his late teens. Alfredo tells Toto to leave Giancaldo and forget Elena, because she has forgotten him. Toto follows Alfredo's advice. Years later he learns that Alfredo "betrayed" him by making him believe that Elena did not love him. But was it really a betrayal, or was it an act of love? The audience is left to decide.

'Au Revoir, Les Enfants' (1991)

There is something eerily haunting about stories on the Holocaust. The horrors the Jews went through reverberate in your mind long after you hear the stories. "Au Revoir, Les Enfants (Goodbye, Children)" is no exception.

This film takes us to World War II. The year is 1944 and the setting is a French Catholic boarding school where several Jews are hiding from the merciless Nazis. Among them is young Jean Bonnet. With a new name and identity, Bonnet pretends to be a new student. At the boarding school, he meets and befriends classmate Julien Quentin, who soon learns of Bonnet's secret. But Quentin does not really understand the significance of being a Jew in a country run by Nazis until the Nazis come to the school looking for Jews. His quick, unthinking glance in Bonnet's direction leads to his friend's discovery and, later on, demise. Young Quentin finally understands the shocking reality of racism and the cruelty of war.

"Au Revoir, Les Enfants" is a bitter tale, but one that must be told if only to remind us constantly in order to avoid a repeat of the tragedy.

> Pinoys want million-dollar movies with plenty of gimmicks, garish stunts and a sex scene or two

'Amelie' (2002)

This French film, which was shown here recently, is a lighthearted drama/comedy starring Audrey Tautou in the title role. She portrays Amelie with a brilliant mix of coyness, vigor and mischief. The film opens by showing Amelie's sad and lonely childhood, no thanks to her bizarre and unaffectionate parents.

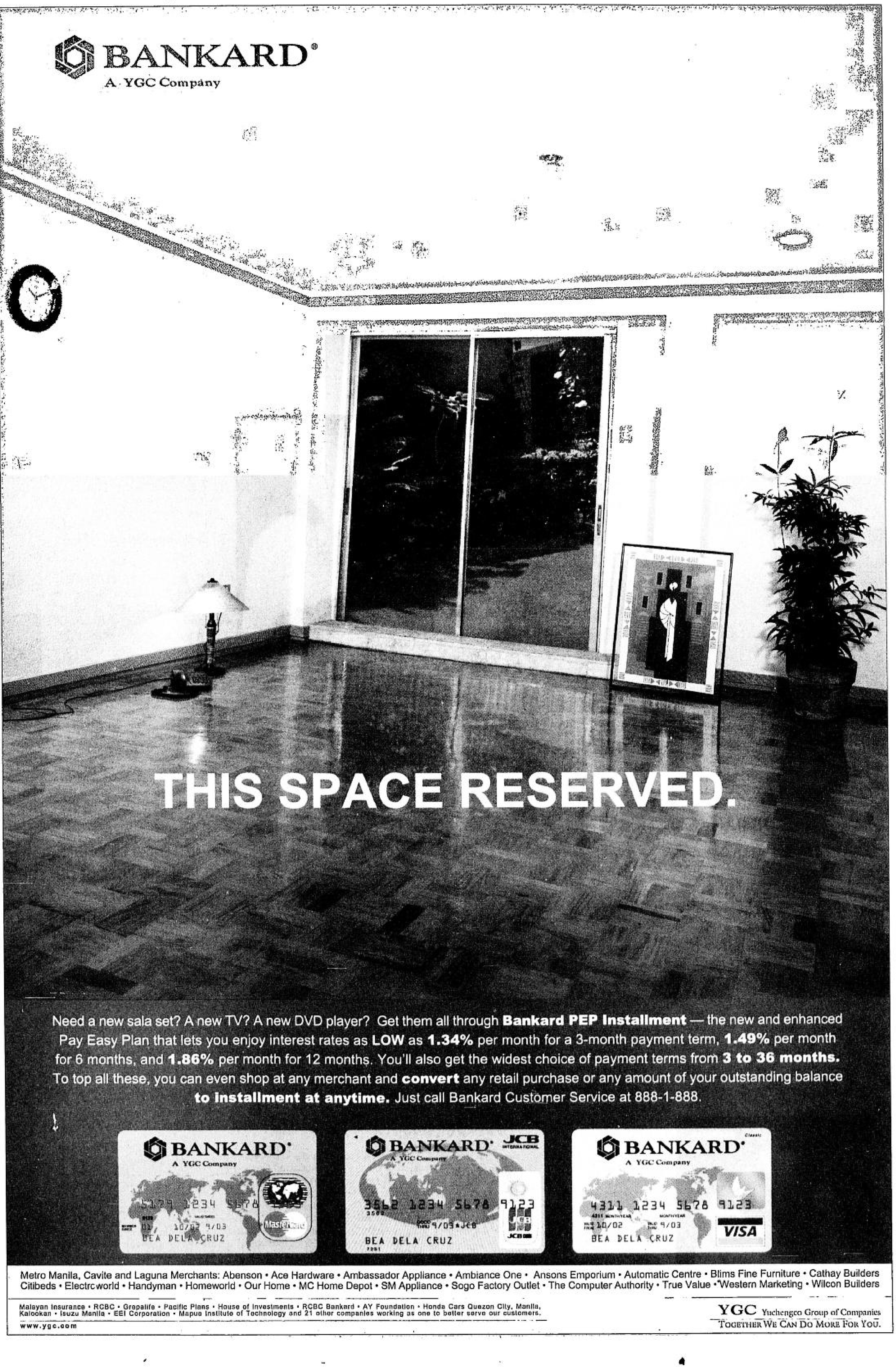
As a result, she grows up to be an eccentric, unable to relate to people and with no real purpose in life. One day she discovers a rusty old tin box hidden in her house. She decides to return the box to its original owner, starting in the process an adventure that would change her life and the lives of the people around her, although for the better.

What's fascinating is how Amelie helps these people in the most creative and extraordinary ways. For instance, she "kidnaps" her father's garden gnome and later sends him anonymous postcards with photographs of the gnome taken in the world's well-known tourist spots just to entice the old man to travel.

The diversity of characters surrounding Amelie adds spice to the movie: there's Dufayel, Amelie's neighbor, who paints a copy of the same Renoir painting year after year; Amelie's boss who is a former trapeze artist; and there's Nico Quincampoix, Amelie's love interest, who works at a porn shop and collects people's discarded snapshots in photo booths.

Judging from how long it was shown in movie theaters, "Amelie" seemed to have done quite well in introducing the Pinoy audience to the beauty of European cinema.

E-mail the author at melissatelan @yahoo.com



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Fresh sound in Britney-polluted music scene

Avril Lavigne
Let Go

Let Go
Avril Lavigne
BMG Records (Pilipinas)

By Pam Pastor

Language lapses notwithstanding, Lavigne's songs are raw, angst-filled and probing—snapshots of a teenage life

"Never wore cover-up/Always beat the bois up/Grew up in a 5,000 population town/Made my money by cutting grass"

THESE are lines from a song called "My World," the 10th cut from a 13-track album called "Let Go." The town is Nappanee, Ontario, and the singer is Avril Lavigne.

The 17-year-old self-proclaimed "skater-punk" is a high school dropout who left her small town to pursue her dream of becoming a "rock star." After a failed attempt to begin her career—and her first album—in New York, she moved to Los Angeles and soon found herself in the limelight. And while we wouldn't go as far as hailing her a rock princess, she's achieved one thing—she's gotten herself heard.

Her first album is the result of her collaboration with producer/songwriter Clif Magness and a new production team called The Matrix.

Despite Lavigne's claims to be anti-pop, some of her songs are undeniably mainstream. Her album tracks are a mix of pop, punk, rock and country.

Her lyrics are lacking in maturity, reminiscent of poems you doodled in your high school notebook. On some levels, it could be said that the album was a peek into a teenage girl's diary—grammatical errors and all. Lavigne seems to have a problem with her "to's" and "too's," "yours and you'res," and "ofs" and "haves," as seen in the handwritten lyrics in her album jacket.

But language lapses notwithstanding, her songs are raw, angst-filled and probing; they are snapshots of her teenage life. The album speaks of issues familiar to any adolescent—pretension ("You become someone else/'Round everyone else/You're watching you back/Like you can't relax/You're trying to be cool/you look like a fool to me"), hypocrisy ("I wake up in the morning/Put on my face/The one that's gonna get me through another day"), rejection, abandonment, unrequited love ("Right now I feel invisible to you/Like I'm not real"), helplessness ("Everything's changing/When I turn around/All out of control/I'm a mobile"), wistfulness, insecurity ("I'm feeling nervous/Trying to be perfect/'Cause I know you're worth it"), frustration ("Isn't anyone trying to find me/Won't someone come and take me home") and the desire for individuality ("Is it enough to die/Somebody save my life/I'd rather be anything but ordinary please").

Her first single, "Complicated," expresses disdain for hypocrisy. The song is catchy—the type that can get stuck in your head for days. Her second single, "Sk8r Boi," is actually a short story compressed into an upbeat song—one that reminds me of Green Day.

My top pick is "Anything but Ordinary," but I also like "Losing Grip," "Mobile" and "Tomorrow." Although "Nobody's Fool's" chorus was pretty good, Lavigne's attempt at rapping put me off.

The singer has gotten a lot of flack from people who say that she doesn't really play the guitar as well as she claims. Although lacking in guitar skills, she makes up for it with her impressively strong vocals and her passion for making music.

The album is good for days when you want to lock yourself in your room and shut everyone else out.

This girl has been compared to Michelle Branch, Pink and even Alanis Morissette countless times. As a biased Alanis fan, I'd say this girl still has a lot of growing up to do.

Mature or immature, Lavigne is a light of hope in a world polluted by Britney and her clones.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

Groban's music links classics and pop

By Michelle C. Pino
2bU! Correspondent

You don't have to speak and understand any foreign language to admire the brilliance of his music

HIS curly hair and big, sad eyes already drew attention when he guested in the season finale of the hit television comedy program "Ally McBeal." But when Josh Groban started to sing lines from "You're Still You," people were instantly glued to their TV sets.

"You walked past me/I can feel your pain/Time changes everything/One truth only stays the same/You're still you…after all/You're still you."

As Groban performed, he brought to life his head-over-heels in love but brokenhearted character. I did not know that he was really a singer. I was just bowled over by his charm and the majestic baritone voice. If my friends did not rave about his CD when it was released, I would not have grabbed my own copy of the album. I would have missed hearing an "angel" sing.

Heartrending

Groban's debut album has 13 songs—seven songs in English and six songs in Spanish and Italian. Fortunately, you don't have to speak and understand any foreign language to admire the brilliance of his music. You will be awed by his songs, like "Alla Luce del Sole" (To the Sun's Light), "Gira con Me Questa Notte" (Wander with Me Tonight), "Canto alla Vita" (Song to Life) and, most especially, "Un Amore per Sempre" (A Forever Love), even without understanding the lyrics.

He gives a passionate rendition of the heartbreaking Spanish adapted song "Alejate," accompanied by an exceptional orchestra and skilled guitarists. His two hit singles, "You're Still You" and "To Where You Are," show his versatility. The songs are not just for the few who love and appreciate adaptations of the classics but also for all those with a weakness for moving, heartfelt music:

"Fly me up to where you are/Beyond the distant stars/I wish upon tonight to see you smile/If only for a while to know you're there/A breath away is not far to where you are."

The debut album is a fusion of pop and classical music. Each song is both powerful and invigorating, relieving heavy hearts and tired minds. Groban's album masterfully combines his sense of the classics and his natural talent for pop and rock. Incomparable talents complemented his skills in several songs. The album features Charlotte Church in a duet of "The Prayer," a Celine Dion/Andrea Bocelli original, and the perky, bustling music and voices of The Corrs in "Canto alla Vita."

Two revivals are included in Groban's debut album. "Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)," a Don Mclean original, is sung by Groban in a drawn-out, lingering tone and rhythm. Violin and background vocals of featured artist Lili Haydn put heavenly touches on the interpretation of a Johann Sebastian Bach-original "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

Two thumbs and two toes up

Although possessing a melodious voice in an era of thumping, bumping music by skin-baring pop stars, Groban still has a long way to go in introducing his orchestral music, leisurely rhythm and baritone voice to the young. He has an audience—a few guys and gals who know good music and a good voice when they hear them. But he can reach out to the young pop and rock crowd. His sincere and heartwarming songs make him seem like someone unreal yet within reach. Groban's debut release is a bold alternative to the loud "banging" young people groove and move to.

Note: Special thanks to Len Perez and Eric Manalastas for the translation.

Getting naked with music videos

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

[illegible] Love Hewitt is [illegible]sed. Avril barely anti[illegible] and Justin [illegible]lake's b[illegible]ely [illegible] Michael.

Barenaked
Jennifer Love Hewitt

YOU tell this sexy girl a pick-up line and it fails miserably. You feel naked. You trip really badly while walking down the street. You feel naked. Your partner throws you out of your apartment. You feel naked. You need to sell your latest single faster than Britney Spears does, so what do you do? Get naked.

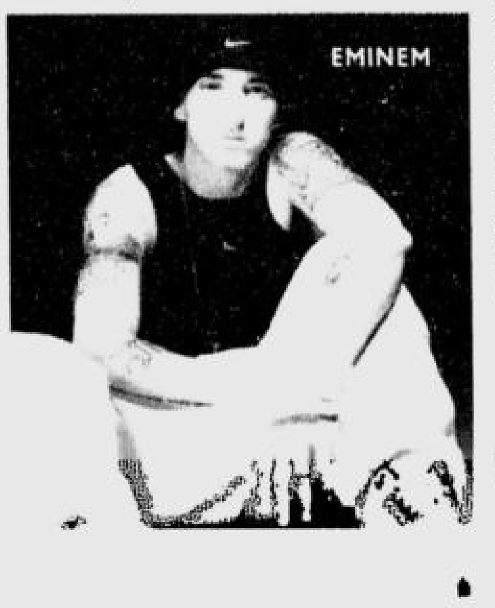
Jennifer Love Hewitt gets slightly naked in her first single out of her solo debut. The music video opens with Jennifer in bed, at the break of day, showing some skin. She then dresses up and walks down out of her apartment to encounter instances where people get really uncomfortable, thus feeling naked.

The instances mentioned above all happen, so that when the girl who tripped starts to stand up again, she's suddenly shown without any clothes. (Good excuse for the producers of this video.) Of course, it's still an MTV, so no sensitive parts are shown.

However, toward the end of the song, we suddenly find Jennifer running back up to her flat, naked. As to what embarrassment caused her to feel that way, one could only guess. Was it the sales of her album?

Complicated
Avril Lavigne

How do you become the antithesis of the nauseating pop antics of (okay, again) Britney? Get smokey eyes and a guitar, then attempt to look like a rocker chick.



The operative word is attempt.

Honestly, I couldn't figure out how come these so-called antitheses such as Vanessa Carlton, Michelle Branch and, now, Avril Lavigne, have become the opposite of the pop princess. So they write their own songs and play an instrument or two, but they're not anything like Sheryl Crow or Sarah Maclachlan.

In "Complicated," Avril sings, "Life's like this you/You fall and you crawl and you break and you take what you get/And you turn it into honesty." Okay, whatever. Anyway, for her video, she skateboards, strums her guitar, sings and hangs out with the boys in order to give the viewer an alternative feel. But she's really just candy-pop.

Cleanin' Out My Closet
Eminem

Poor Eminem. Mommy doesn't love him. She curses him and wishes him dead. But Eminem loves Mommy so much so he makes a card for her. But she doesn't appreciate this. What does Eminem do?

Bury Mommy.

Of course, it's a grown-up Eminem who does that, only implied by showing him covering a ditch with a shovel. It's scary how this act seems justified after we see what his mom had done to him when he was still small. The empathy we feel for little Eminem is enough to fuel our hatred for the mother; enough to wish her dead. But, of course, reality sets in, and we don't think anyone should actually kill one's own mother. Eminem didn't. He only wrote this song and made this video for her.

Dilemma
Nelly featuring Kelly Rowland

Okay, Destiny's Child pointed their fingers at those nasty girls, whose cleavage run down "from here to Mexico." Right, as if theirs don't go all the way to Canada. Anyway, this pop group has since separated for now, with Beyoncé and Michelle making their own songs. Now it's time for Kelly Rowland. In her solo debut, she collaborates with Nelly for a song that examines the self-tribulation of a two-timing woman. It sure ain't as nasty as showing off one's breasts, but it's somewhere up there.

JENNIFER Love Hewitt

In the video, Kelly moves into Nelly's neighborhood and as he sings in the video, "she got the hots" for him. Cocky he's not because Kelly does flirt a lot with him, and it's somehow implied that it was she who made the first move. So, when her husband is not around, all Kelly does is dance and be sexy with him. This practically goes on all throughout the video, interspersed with shots of Kelly waiting for her husband to get off to work, day-dreaming and so on. The song mentions that she even has a son, but that isn't included in the music video.

JUSTIN Timberlake

Later, they bump into each other in the movie theater (Kelly, her husband, Nelly and his date), and Kelly gives Nelly's date a very scrutinizing look. Then, after that, Kelly and Nelly dance out in the street, while her mom screams at her to go back home. When Destiny's Child sang about independent women, maybe it gave Kelly a different perspective.

Like I Love You
Justin Timberlake featuring Clipse

If Michael Jackson does any of the following: (a) get a really, really good plastic surgeon to reconstruct his, err, unusual facial features, (b) get younger and (c) stay away from little boys—then he can well become like Justin Timberlake.

This guy from N'Sync has the voice and moves that are pretty similar to Michael's. In "Like I Love You," he goes on falsetto and almost does the moonwalk. Aside from that, he doesn't do much else since his video doesn't have a story to begin with. But in true boy-band tradition, the video features a lot of dancing girls.

Pinoy Bridget Jones

Getting Better
By Tara FT Sering
(Free with the October issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine)

By Lilledeshan Bose

FREE! WITH YOUR COPY OF COSMOPOLITAN
Getting Better
A NOVEL
TARA FT SERING

WHERE do *colegialas* go when they grow up? After making *tuhog-tuhog* the fishballs and making out with their partners at a post-prom party, some of them evolve into kindergarten teachers. They marry their high school sweethearts, have kids and shop at OshKosh B'gosh by the time they turn 28. They become *matrona* moms.

The *colegialas*, who don't end up teaching kindergarten, turn into career women, with their own apartments, mandatory credit card debts and predilection for pegging their lives to "Sex and the City" reruns. Like Carrie in the show, they have too many shoes they can't afford, and "should-I-live-abroad?" angst.

Karen, the protagonist in Sering's novel, is one such woman. She's 27, works in an advertising agency and has friends who are getting married left and right. She even has one promiscuous friend (à la Samantha) and secretly thinks her married friends aren't any happier than her. But when her long-time boyfriend finally proposes marriage, she's ecstatic.

Written like a how-to manual (à la Lorrie Moore's "Self Help"), Sering's chapters have titles like "How to tell the world you're so in love you're getting married" and "How to recover from heartbreak by trying really hard." Sounds ominous? Think again. Here's a passage from when Karen gets a haircut: "You first showed the stylist a photo of a pre-shoplifting Winona Ryder in 'Alien Resurrection,' and the stylist puckered his lips and said, 'Hair *lang ha*?' He flipped the magazine and said, '*Eto si* Toni Braxton, type *mo*?'"

In fact, there are so many laugh-out-loud moments in the book that it's hard to believe it's only about 50 pages. Written in an easy, fluid language, it's easy to relate to Karen because, like the rest of us, she's dealing with strict parents, *chismis*-obsessed officemates and American pop culture. The best thing? She also talks like the rest of us. Aside from the liberal use of the word s--t, most of the dialogues are in Taglish. There is no *pa*-profound, *pa*-intelligent or trying hard conversation. And it's still all so clever.

It's easy to relate to Karen because, like the rest of us, she's dealing with strict parents, *chismis*-obsessed officemates and American pop culture

The coolest thing about "Getting Better?" I don't remember when I enjoyed a Pinoy book so much. Barring classics like "Noli Me Tangere," "Ibong Mandaragit" and "Dekada 70" that I had to read for class, I can count the Pinoy novels I've liked with the fingers of one hand (not including story collections, anthologies or literary folios). But this is a bona fide novel: it's set in places I recognize, with characters going by familiar names like Miko, Dino, Janice, Tonette and Malu.

You could say that "Getting Better" is equivalent to bubble-gum pop: it's light, easily digested (I read it in 30 minutes), and with a requisite happy ending (you know who Karen is going to end up with from the first chapter). Still, Sering's second novel (her first one, "All The Right Moves," is a choose-your-own-teen-romance published by Adarna House) makes for mighty, yummy reading.

Gym nation

By Margot Aissa C. Tan
2bUI Correspondent

> The emergence of slick gyms shows that the healthy lifestyle has become a style standard

THE GYM gospel has spread, as this survey of the best gyms today show.

Gold's Gym

Though somewhat overcrowded with equipment, the place is impressive: brightly colored walls and panels generously dotted with flat Philips TV sets, and workout music courtesy of no less than Tower Records.

Open daily, including Sundays and holidays, from 6 a.m. until 12 midnight, Gold's in Glorietta gives its members a wide variety of options. It boasts of 42 treadmills, 30 Precor elliptical machines, and at least 20 recumbent and stationary bikes.

Waiting for one's turn in the machines is alien here. This translates to unlimited training hours. To illustrate, if Forrest Gump were to train for a marathon-kayaking leg around the Philippine archipelago, he could slave the entire day away at the Star-trac treadmill machine without having to worry about other members complaining.

Star-trac treadmills by the way are the "Mercedes Benz" of treadmills. It has a small-screen colored TV. It absorbs 60 percent of the impact, goes up to 20 miles an hour, and adjusts to an incline of 30-35 degrees for the fitness masochist's enjoyment.

Unlike other facilities, Gold's Gym carries a number of strength-training equipment made by various well-known brands. It has Flex machines similar to free weights but with less risks. It also carries Paramount machines, which are very safe and may be used by those who are undergoing rehabilitation. Likewise, it has Nautilus, also known for its safety features. It also carries strength-training equipment by Matrix that are suited to beginners.

The place holds some 50 exercise classes every week. These classes include relaxation, high endurance, and calorie-burning aerobics. There are also classes on cardio kickboxing, cardio dance, hi-lo energy, hatha yoga, aero-jazz, core conditioning, and basic stretch and sculpt.

Gold's Gym is also equipped with Reebok core-training boards, which are used in the 60-minute classes for balance, stability, coordination and abdominal exercises. Spinning classes are also offered for heart conditioning and calorie burning of at least 600 calories per class.

There are steam and sauna rooms. Hair dryers have been ordered. Workout and bath towels are supplied to you fresh and clean. Lest I sound as if I had been paid by the management, I'd like to comment that the women's shower room is crowded.

Fitness First

Picture this: Soft, comfortable couches, an eat-and-drink-all-you-can bar of bananas, coffee, soft drinks and ice-cold Nestea. The lounge has newspapers and a good VCD library that members can rent free for a night.

Upon enrollment, the member is gifted with a backpack, workout and bath towels, a water jug, a red Fitness First T-shirt, and headphones. In addition, there's a voucher package consisting of three guest passes worth P500 each, three free consultations, and discount stubs for a massage and one-on-one personal training sessions.

Moreover, Fitness First has "Express Zones," where all the machines and equipment that one needs in a hasty 30-minute workout are pooled together in one convenient room.

On weekdays, the gym is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; on Saturday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sunday and holidays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. All gym equipment and machines are made by TechnoGym, a renowned brand from the United Kingdom.

To be honest, I myself have been a member of Fitness First since July. I am very happy with the safe and user-friendly equipment that are available—from the strength-training equipment to the cardiovascular machines that women love to use.

There are 56 aerobics classes a week in the Fitness First branch on Ayala Avenue in Makati. With two studios, the Eastwood branch has 72 aerobics classes every week. Depending on the type of membership one enrolls in, one may work out either in Makati, Libis, or Alabang. Next year, Fitness First will open a branch at the Eugenio Lopez Jr. (ABS-CBN) Center.

Fitness First has steam rooms, sauna rooms, toiletries and hair dryers. Personal trainers are certified by the American Council of Exercise. The gym is very customer-oriented. It recognizes the need for expansion and additional equipment. The branch in Libis has just completed its expansion program, and I am impressed with the management's sensitivity to the customers' needs. There's a problem in parking, though, in Makati.

Fitness First also provides its share of eye candy: Benjie Paras, Bobby Andrews, Dino Guevarra, Joyce Jimenez, Diether Ocampo, Victor Neri, James Blanco, and Aga and Charlene Muhlach.

The Spa

This is the crème de la crème of health facilities. It is located at the RCBC Plaza. Even the busiest hours (5 p.m. to 8 p.m.) do not witness heavy traffic here. The membership packages are tailor-made to address the traffic problem.

Membership dues are not as expensive as one would expect, given the superior quality of services. There are treats and drinks at the juice bar in the reception area. On Monday, The Spa provides unlimited bananas; on Tuesday, ready-to-eat vegetables; Wednesday, a medley of tropical fruits; Thursday, a variety of fruit juices; Friday, breadsticks; Saturday, native *kakanin*; and on Sunday, hard-boiled, protein-rich eggs. One of their more popular clients is Gretchen Barretto.

THE AUTHOR sweats it out in Gold's Gym.

THE GORGEOUS landscape at The Spa

During your first consultation, you will be asked to go through a fitness test. Your body-mass index (BMI), body fat percentage and lean muscle percentage will be calculated. Your body measurements will also be recorded. With the consultants, you may set clear goals, address personal concerns and establish a customized gym program. Walk-ins are allowed for a fee.

The Spa carries TechnoGym equipment. Though it has less machines and equipment compared to Gold's Gym and Fitness First, it has all the essentials. It also has a gorgeous indoor heated lap pool and jacuzzi on the second level.

The Spa offers aqua aerobics in small and intimate classes. It also offers boxing classes.

The women's changing and shower rooms are reasonably spacious and complete with toiletries. Aside from the usual complimentary soap and shampoo, they have mousse, gel, hair spray, brushes, even deodorants and powder.

The Spa also offers an array of specialized body treatments, massages, reflexology, and facials, using only the best products from Thalgo. With Starbucks, Subway, and Eat (a new food court) just outside the gym, the possibilities of mingling with and meeting people are endless. It's a wonderful place to pump up, relax and unwind.

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Deanne Montoya, Entrepreneur
Dolce Vita
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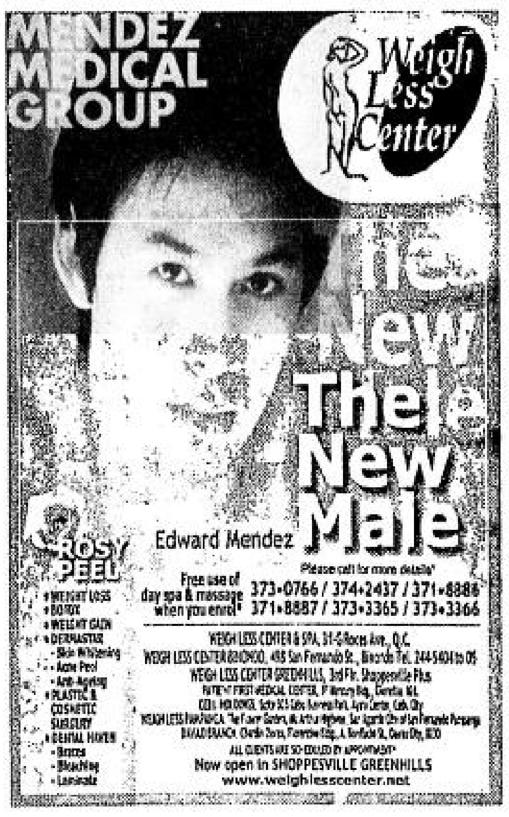
10 minutes with John Mayer

Story on page D2



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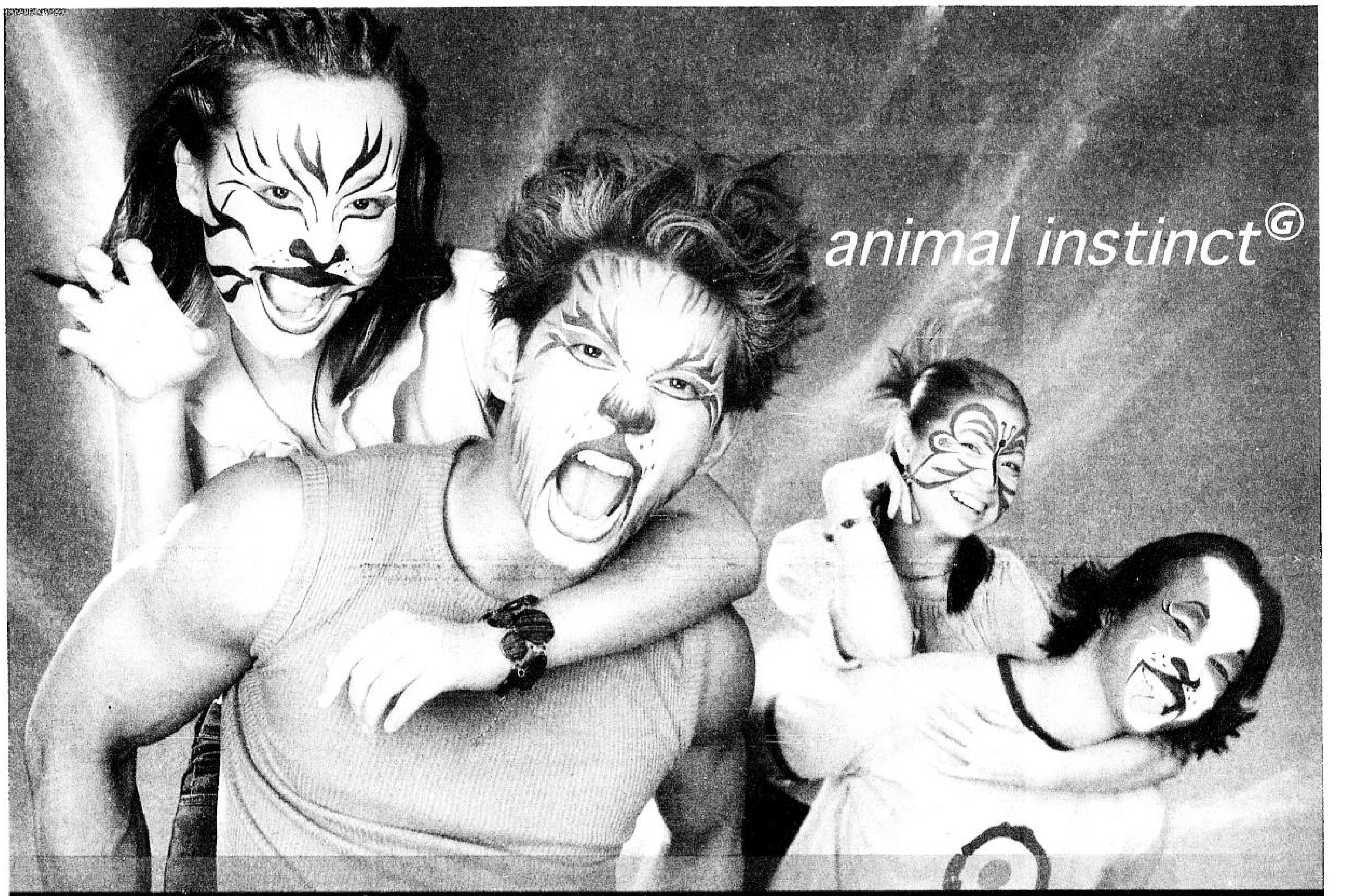

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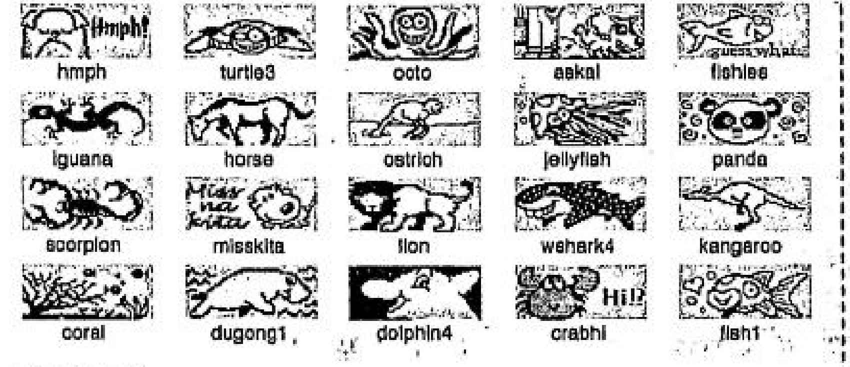

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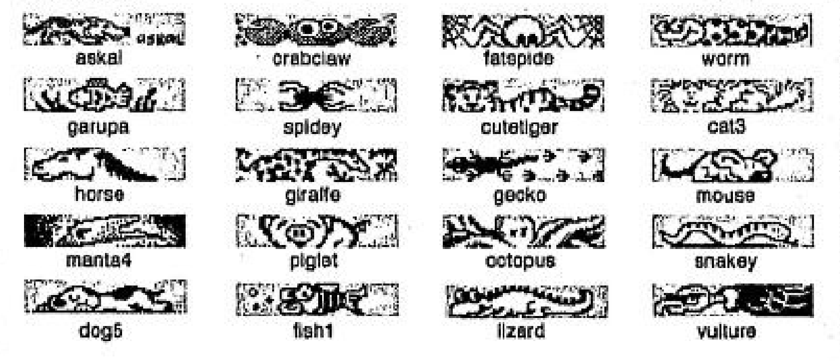

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BACK TO BACK. Body painting grand champion displays her winning form at the Waterfront.

BODY AS CANVAS. Picasso would have loved these subjects at the SMB body painting competition.

Cebu and the art of chill

WHAT'S the best way to sit back, relax and escape these days? Urbanites all go through a cycle of party-hardy hip hopping like there's no tomorrow, and then fizzling out toward the end, finding their selves too exhausted, over-partied. The savvy man practices moderation, knows his limits, indulges in his own intimacies, and still finds time to achieve that all-important balance between work and play.

"When you know," indeed—as Chivas Regal would put it. Now that scotch is the new vodka, what with its versatility for cocktails, the drum beaters of Premier Spirits are all getting a high with its sizzling kind of chill—the Chivas Hours, as they call it, with high noses and swaying hips. The dance beats were courtesy of swanky and sexy DJ **David Jacob**, who, besides being one of Manila's foremost spin masters, is a fine example of how a mod young gentleman from this side of the hipster's fence should be.

Along with other fine examples of modern knighthood like the witty wattage of Chivas boss **Tony Valdez**, and **Allan Harrow**, the Chivas Hours marched to the bars. From Fidel to Wherelse, to Shiraz to the Elbow Room, the crew was all fully equipped with a never-ending supply of that high octave C—Chivas, of course. Those who chilled with us softly on this trip were members of the city's hip, hot and high-rolling set—models, expats, actors and whatever.

To those who think all scotches are created equal, think again. At the heart of Chivas is the Speyside whiskies. Speyside is akin to scotch as Bordeaux is to wine, or Cognac in France is to brandy. Enough said.

Nights of down tempo chill with high voltage Silver Sirens (gyrating endlessly and scantily clad at that—whew!), the city's cocktail-crazy crowd and the finest scotch in the world—how much more chill can you get?

Art at the Waterfront

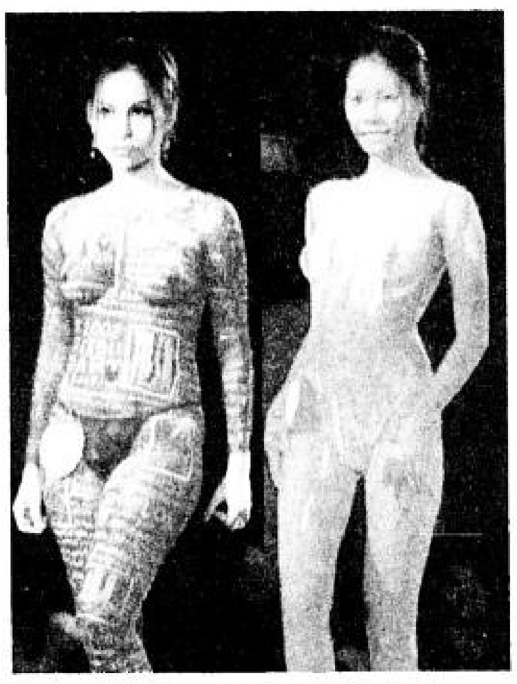
My own version of chill came in the form of hieing off to Cebu, the first flight I could get on a Sunday morning for the Cebu Art Festival at the Waterfront. Yes, straight from an all-nighter, I flew to the Queen City of the South to witness Cebu's young, diverse and growing art scene. The trip was invigorating, to say the least.

I always get a great high when I talk to Asia Society's young mover **Ines Delgado** as we observe the new movement of the young art scene. Cebu's young artsy set is highly talented and driven, I always tell her. In my countless trips to the South where Waterfront has become my second home, the young Cebuano art movers would always stage an exhibit of works—stunning visuals, kitschy installations and refreshing takes on the classics.

This time, the art was on a different canvas, and I was able to make it just in time for the body-painting contest. At the lobby of the newly renovated Waterfront were the works of countless Cebuano and Manila-based artists all mounted in a sea of white. The night before, I missed a grand jewelry show with all the Cebu matrons parading in their glittery best—Waterfront forerunners **Marco Protacio** and **Pia Almendras** were ecstatic as they traded stories of glitz (literally) and glam the night before. Kudos to them for making things happen—their energy and zest for creativity were oh-so-contagious!

Then the SMB-sponsored art competition began. Men in body painted tuxedoes ushered in the candidates, one by one, as the canvas came to life in the form of warm bodies all filled with vivid colors. The paint flowed so smoothly with the curves of the contestant's bodies that it seemed like second skin. From the colors of the sunset to gothic ghouls to fantasy faces, it was a parade of surreal seduction. I actually wanted to take home one of the works, but I didn't think I could pack her in my luggage.

After the announcement of winners, the artists all got together and applauded each other's works. The Waterfront ballroom was filled with great vibes. I went up to my room where I spent the rest of my stay watching movies in bed, cuddled up in crisp white sheets and fluffy pillows. Now, how's that for a chill out?

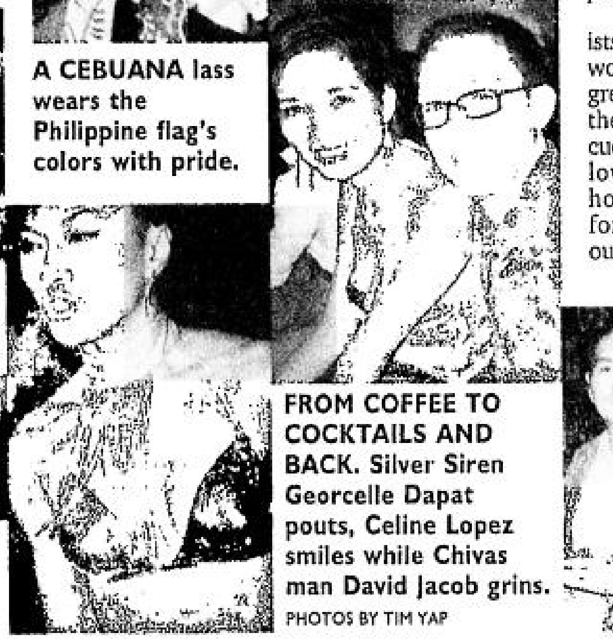


ICE AND FIRE. From cyber savvy to inferno's reign, Cebu sizzles with living art.

WHEN YOU KNOW. Scotch is the new vodka.

A CEBUANA lass wears the Philippine flag's colors with pride.

SHAKE IT. Timm Volbrecht with Joane Laygo, and Des Guico



FROM COFFEE TO COCKTAILS AND BACK. Silver Siren Georcelle Dapat pouts, Celine Lopez smiles while Chivas man David Jacob grins.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

SAVVY SET. Alan Harrow (in green), Julien Tripet, Julien Cleret, Joji Dingcong and Xavi Miro

---

10 minutes with John Mayer

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

JOHN Mayer

JOHN Mayer was 13 when he first picked up a guitar. This was after a neighbor handed him a blues tape. At 15, he was already performing in clubs and bars, belting out covers until he realized that there was more to music than singing other people's songs. He set a goal: to be able to play originals that would make others want to cover them, although he would make sure his version would be the best.

In 1998, Mayer said bye-bye to his Connecticut home and moved to Boston, where he enrolled in the Berklee College of Music. He'd loved music so much that he didn't want to just study it. He wanted to *make* it. A friend told him to move to Atlanta, and sure enough, after a few sessions at Eddie's Attic, Mayer moved on to record "Inside Wants Out," a collection of acoustic originals.

But it was in Texas in March 2000 when Mayer joined the South by Southwest music conference when people started to notice. Record executives handed him their cards, each crossing their fingers to get the new talent on their roster. Columbia was the lucky company, and, after work with producer John Alagia (who also worked with the Dave Matthews Band and Ben Folds Five), released his 2001 offering, "Room for Squares." The rest is history.

2bU! got to chat with John Mayer:

Let me get this straight—the reason why you make originals is so people can play them, but not really play them the way you play them?

When I was growing up, I was really into the blues. I would play entire sets of covers. It's like you're constantly doing something that someone else did. It's like a painter's brush stroke. You're just tracing the idea of someone else. Coming up with my own music is like coming up with my own original brush stroke. And so now, when people cover my songs, they're tracing me.

Cover bands do tend to play a lot of John Mayer these days.

It's flattering, really.

Mellow rock seems to be a trend now. I mean, before it was boy bands, then girl singers, then NU metal, then chicks with guitars like Avril...

Oh, Avril doesn't really play the guitar. (*snickers*) She only does so in the video to make herself look cool.

I noticed that, too. But then now it's all mellow rock.

I guess I didn't know what I was up against when I started doing the record. I guess it pays to be stupid, since I didn't know what to do while recording (*laughs*). I remember the process now though, and when I do the next record, I'll probably be more focused.

And constantly writing for the new one, of course.

Definitely. You always have to write. It's a quality-control basis thing. *(laughs)*

What inspired you to write the songs on the record?

You won't believe this—Berklee College of Music. *(laughs)* They taught us the empowering ability to write songs. Also, being alone for the first time, it was a totally different experience for me.

Speaking of experiences, do you often find yourself writing songs about things you haven't experienced yet?

No. The songs I write, I've definitely experienced them. Sometimes I write songs that give me the feeling I've done those things before. But I don't go writing songs about friends' experiences. I have enough that goes on in my life to tinker with other people's lives.

How different was John Mayer five years ago to this John Mayer I'm talking to?

I honestly don't know how much I've changed. I'm just self-righteous about it. *(laughs)*

How does it feel like to have girls throw themselves at you?

I don't really feel like girls throw themselves at me. I guess the attention is something useful. The music is a good ground for attention. I mean, they say, "Oh, it's that guy who wrote that song." That's nice, since they like the song I wrote and they like the music.

What's in your CD player right now?

I don't have a CD player with me. I got MP3's, though. My current fave is Coldplay's new album. I like Britpop, and Coldplay's really, really good.

Sony calls you and says you get to collaborate with any artist.

Definitely Sting. I wouldn't want to sing one of his songs with him onstage, though. We'd go write our own, the two of us.

No collaborations with Avril in the future?

Avril? No. Oh wait, maybe logistically selling ties.

Great.

Of course, I'd design them. She'd just wear them.

E-mail the author at volcanogirl28@hotmail.com

Let your accessories do the talking

CONTRARY to what most of you would assume (based on my publicly professed love affair with fashion and beauty), I am not a fashionista. I am not obsessed with trends, much less spend on them.

While all the others have gone "Little House on the Prairie" with their choice of clothes, my closet has yet to see the first peasant top and make its way into my wardrobe (which I very much doubt will happen soon). While this all-too-familiar line, "Miss, *yan ang uso ngayon*," makes the sale in most cases, it dashes any chance I'd leave with a purchase in mine. I find an item under at least three labels, it goes right out of my shopping list.

Of course, there have been exceptions to this rule, but generally, it is one personal style commandment I firmly believe in. Call it outdated, a killjoy fashion sense, or whatever else. I am a trend snob—tie me up and put me away in the stockroom.

My daily "uniform" is hardly what you'd consider vogue at first glance. I practically live in jeans and a basic, solid-colored top—definitely not the kind of get-up seen on the style icons of the fashion industry, and especially not the kind prescribed by the trend-setting editors of InStyle and Bazaar. Blah, loyal runway followers might say. So I have slim chances of landing on the Best Dressed list. But at least I know I won't make it to the Worst Dressed line-up, either.

Now you might think I'm a hypocrite, turning down the latest trends for a seemingly self-righteous classic preference. Where's my sense of adventure and fun, you may ask. Surely, it is lurking underneath that plain white shirt, begging to get to that sequined fuchsia halter top.

Wait a minute! I may avoid the latest Fashion Week knockoffs like the plague, but it's absolutely not because my fun factor and adventure quotient are nonexistent. My discriminating eye for clothing could mean more hanger room in my closet, but my ever-growing collection of shoes, belts, bags and baubles is more than enough to fill the extra space.

Sure, my clothes are quiet, but only because I let my accessories do the talking. An interesting piece could make a bigger statement than a top-to-toe outfit, so never underestimate the power of accessorizing. And speaking of fun and adventure, it is a delight to report that fashion now has more to offer than those black leather sandals, belts and bags. My top picks for those who are just about to put a foot into the ocean of accessories are edgy, stylish and unbelievably wearable, I wouldn't be surprised if they just went on and plunged.

The fabric sash. To the ubiquitous fringed macramé belt, your days are numbered. The freshest way to jazz up your bottoms comes in a sleek strip of fabric, whether in suede, silk or satin, plain or with delicate embroidery. More feminine than Wild, Wild West, the fabric sash looks polished and sophisticated even when worn with rugged jeans. No time to shop? Make one with a satin ribbon from fabric or craft stores, or use mom's silk scarf or even dad's funky necktie! If you're too lazy to be creative or to rummage through your folks' closet, grab one at Blush on the G/F of Glorietta 2.

The watch. Who says obsessive-compulsives can't be in style? If you must have the time on your wrist, better make sure it's on a darn pretty watch. Forget those dainty little wristwatches or stiff stainless steel timepieces—it's all about color and size. If you've managed to save enough moolah or have really generous parents, don't waste your luck on anything less than a Technomarine, *the* timepiece for the fashion-forward yet sporty woman. To the greater chunk of the female population, however, the latest designs of Swiss brand Swatch will have to do. What? You've blown off most of your allowance? Visit GirlShoppe at the Hip floor of Rockwell's Power Plant or Babo at the Greenhills Theater Mall. You're bound to find one that won't cost you an arm and a leg.

The chunky neckpiece. Though chandelier and drop earrings have also been big this season, big and bold neckpieces have stolen the show. With materials ranging from glass beads to coral, to semi-precious stones, there is one for every personality and style preference. Chokers and lariats could either be worn alone, or in layers, but remember not to overdo it! Chunky, embellished cross accents are being spotted on stylish necks, too, and at the accessory counters of Mango and Wai Pai at the Power Plant. Other faves are those made by Avatar at Celine Mix Group on the 2/F of Glorietta 4, intricate semi-precious necklaces at Blush, and the new selection at U in Rustan's.

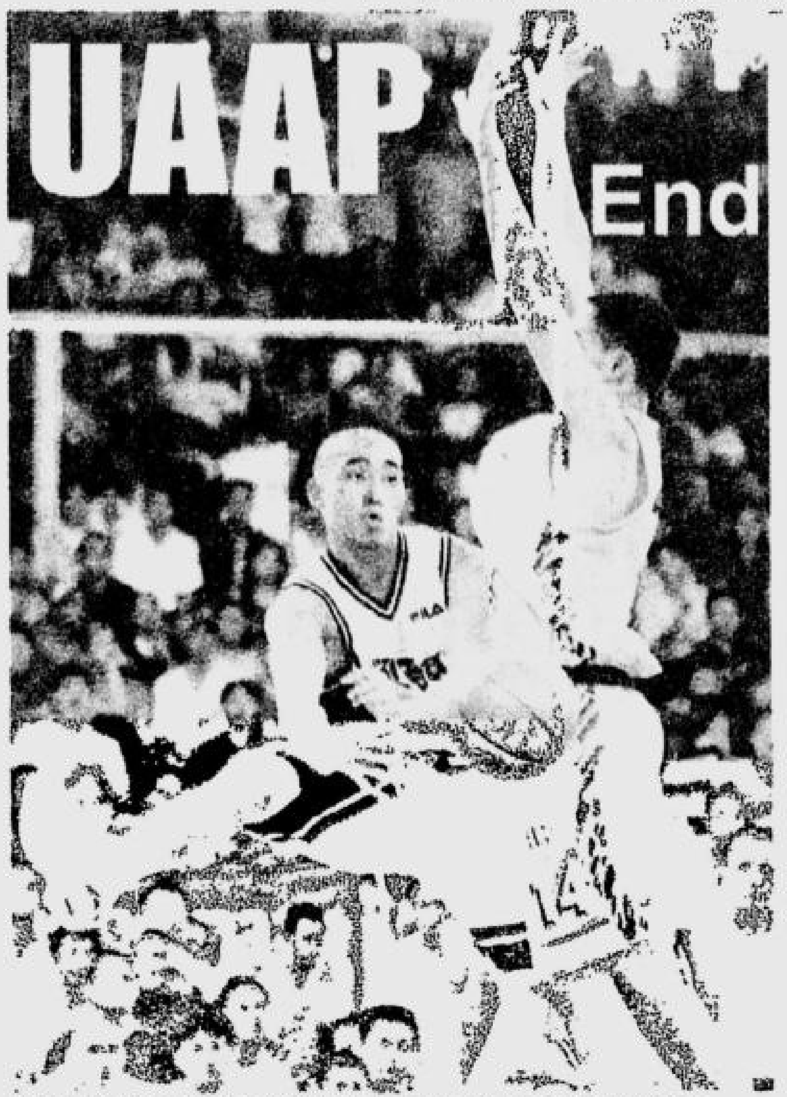
The bag. I'm not just talking about that neutral-colored satchel. Every girl has to have a detailed, whimsical bag. Beading, sequins, embroidery or unusual print on totes, clutches, baguettes—the possibilities are just endless. A quirky purse instantly adds a dash of pizzazz to any outfit (especially if you're a jeans-and-white-top person like me). I like the crisp yet colorful designs of Jasy at the Nail Spa, 5/F Shangri-La Plaza, the unique creations of Ishq (you'll never run the risk of bumping into someone with the exact same bag!), and the dressed-up yet incredibly reasonably priced clutches of Pazzy (call Pazzy Navarro at [0919] 239-4047).

The pointy-toed mule. Give those sneakers and boots a rest. This season's hottest shoe is all about being undeniably feminine and unabashedly sexy. Tell me, what girl wouldn't want that? Manolo Blahnik's trademark is fast making its way onto every chic woman's shoe closet. Every confident step you take in these classy mules is well worth the agony inflicted on your toes. Get dangerously daring and wear them with short-shorts or microminis, or put them on to up the sexy factor of your good ol' denims. The ones from U's new collection have lace-up ankle straps to avoid Cinderella moments, while the up-to-date offerings at Janylin and Celine are bound to rouse your shoe-addict tendencies.

I guess I'm not the ultimate trend snob, after all. I do follow trends, but my style is discreetly flashy—a fashion contradiction that works wonders, if you ask me. Bad news is, I don't have a step-by-step manual on this. You have to get the hang of it yourself. Just remember: If you see it on Jolina, don't wear it. That's some wise advice right there.

E-mail the author at pdi_vanityfare@hotmail.com

2002 UAAP End of Season Awards



DLSU'S Mike Cortez twists for a drop-off pass against Niño Gelig of UST.

From page D4

(UE). He just found ways to get the ball into the basket. He was a scoring machine who came up with impressive numbers at any time.

Honorable mention: Mike Bravo (UP)

Sportsmanship Award: Adonis Sta. Maria (DLSU). With all the banging and noise, he never lost his cool and just focused on contributing to his team's success.

Honorable mention: Derek Hubalde (UST)

Most Improved Player: Joseph Yeo (DLSU). He became an integral part of the Archers after being a non-factor last year.

Honorable mention: Gec Chia (AdMU)

Comeback of the Year: DLSU's second-round game versus UST, coming back from 18 points down in the fourth quarter, with Mike Cortez and Joseph Yeo leading the charge.

Honorable mention: UP's first-round game versus AdMU, coming back from an 11-point deficit in the final quarter to score the upset.

Chairman of the Boards: Rich Alvarez (AdMU). After a slow start, he found his stride and became the most dependable rebounder in the league.

Honorable mention: Enrico Villanueva (AdMU)

Most Underrated Player: Alfie Grijaldo (NU). He doesn't have the height and the leaping ability of the other centers in the league, but he surely did his job in every single game.

Honorable mention: Christian Luanzon (UST)

Most Exciting Game of the Year: Ateneo versus FEU second-round, double overtime win for the Tams. Two triples by Santos at the end of regulation brought life to FEU's season.

Honorable mention: The rest of the games. It seemed that almost every game was exciting and were down to the wire this year.

Best Pep Squad: UP Pep Squad. They still had the best halftime cheers, although UST did have a better number during the cheering competition.

Honorable mention: UST

Loudest Fans: Ateneo de Manila. Their fighting spirit was always evident no matter what the score was.

Honorable mention: University of the East

Dunk of the Year: Cyrus Baguio (UST). Follow-up dunk in the second-round game versus La Salle.

Honorable mention: Enrico Villanueva (AdMU). Slam over Baguio in the Eagles' second-round match-up with the Tigers.

Most Amazing Shot: Gec Chia (AdMU) versus UE. His shot heard all over Katipunan during the second game of the Final Four match that propelled the Eagles into the finals.

Honorable mention: Arwind Santos (FEU) versus AdMU second-round game three-pointer, to send the game into overtime, which the Tams eventually won.

Best Courtside Reporter: Patty Laurel (AdMU)/Aileen Sabiaga (AdU). With a year under their belts, they were the most comfortable in front of the camera in doing their reports.

Honorable mention: Cristina Canada (UP)

Most Unique Hairstyle: Jojo Hate (AdU).

Honorable mention: Enrico Villanueva (AdMU) and Abadia (AdU) in the first round.

Mr. Hustle Award: Marc Cardona (DLSU). His hustle and heart were what every coach would love to have for his team.

Honorable mention: Andrew Cruz (AdMU)

Comeback Player of the Year: Wesley Gonzales (AdMU). After a year off, he played a pivotal role in the Eagles' first championship in 14 years.

Honorable mention: Cyrus Baguio (UST)

Best Return on Investment for the Season: Ticket scalpers. The finals tickets were sold for up to a 2,000-percent markup from their original price.

Honorable mention: Studio 23

Heartbreak Kids: NU Bulldogs. Coach Rico Perez and his boys would have been contenders for the Final Four had they found a way to win the close games.

Honorable mention: Adamson Falcons

Best Shooter: Jeff Napa (NU). When he's feeling it, he can hit from anywhere within the same area code of the hoop.

Honorable mention: Patrick Tionco (AdU)

Clutch Player of the Year: Mike Cortez (DLSU). He proved it time and again the whole season. He was willing to take and make the big shots.

Honorable mention: Gec Chia (AdMU)

Best Single Game Performance: Jeff Napa (NU). Scorched Adamson with 42 points in leading his team to their first victory of the season. He hit 10 threes from behind the arc, tying the UAAP record.

Honorable mention: James Yap (UE) versus UST during the last game of the first round, scoring 36 points.

Best Player Not Included in the Mythical Five: Marvin Cruz (UPIS). I know he's in the juniors division but he deserves some recognition on leading his team to the first ever UAAP championship of UPIS.

Best Website: Pinoyexchange.com. Still the most visited site when it comes to UAAP discussions.

Honorable mention: Pinoycentral/Universitybelt

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2002 UAAP End of Season Awards

By Jude Turcuato
Contributor

THE BASKETBALL tournament of season 65 of the UAAP has been the most exciting in recent memory. The season was complete with great games, awesome plays, big shots, attention-grabbing controversies, incredible comebacks and intense rivalries. In the end, it was destiny overcoming dynasty as the Blue Eagles finally reached the top of the country's premier collegiate basketball league. Let's remember some of the unforgettable moments and recognize some of the best individuals who entertained us with their performances. Here are my picks for season 65:

Most Valuable Player: Mike Cortez (DLSU). No player has been more valuable to his team than the "Cool Cat." He was the heart and soul of La Salle, and the team's performance hinged on how well he played.
Honorable mention: Enrico Villanueva (AdMU)

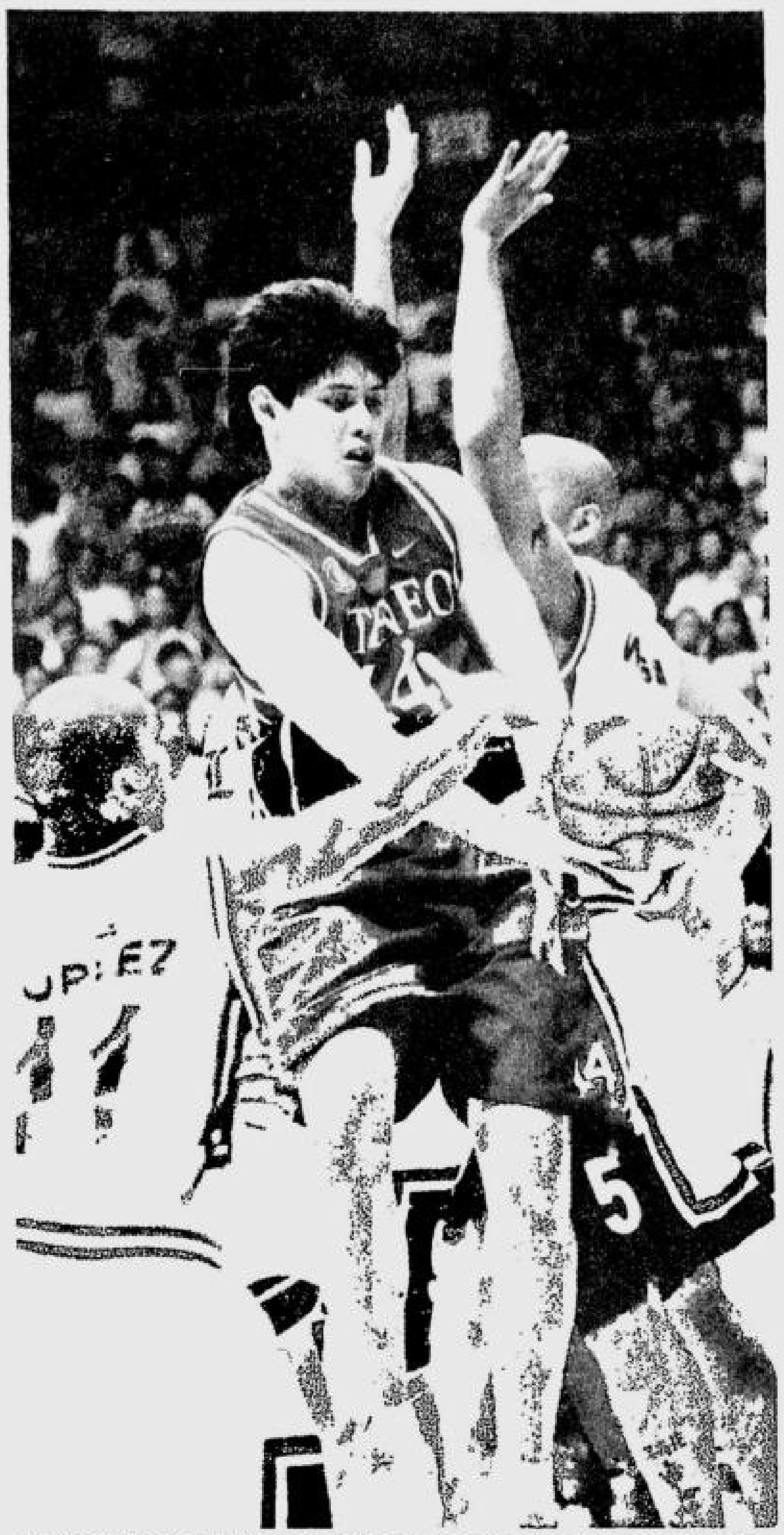
Rookie of the Year: Arwind Santos (FEU). He was the most consistent among the rookies and made the most impact with some heroics for the Tamaraws, which gave them an outside shot at the Final Four.
Honorable mention: Jay-ar Reyes (UP)

Coach of the Year: Boyzee Zamar (UE). Not many expected the Warriors to have the second best record in the elimination round until this man took charge.
Honorable mention: Joel Banal (AdMU)

Defensive Player of the Year: Enrico Villanueva (AdMU). The most intimidating presence on the lane. He blocked the most shots and forced some bad attempts in other situations.
Honorable mention: Rich Alvarez (AdMU)

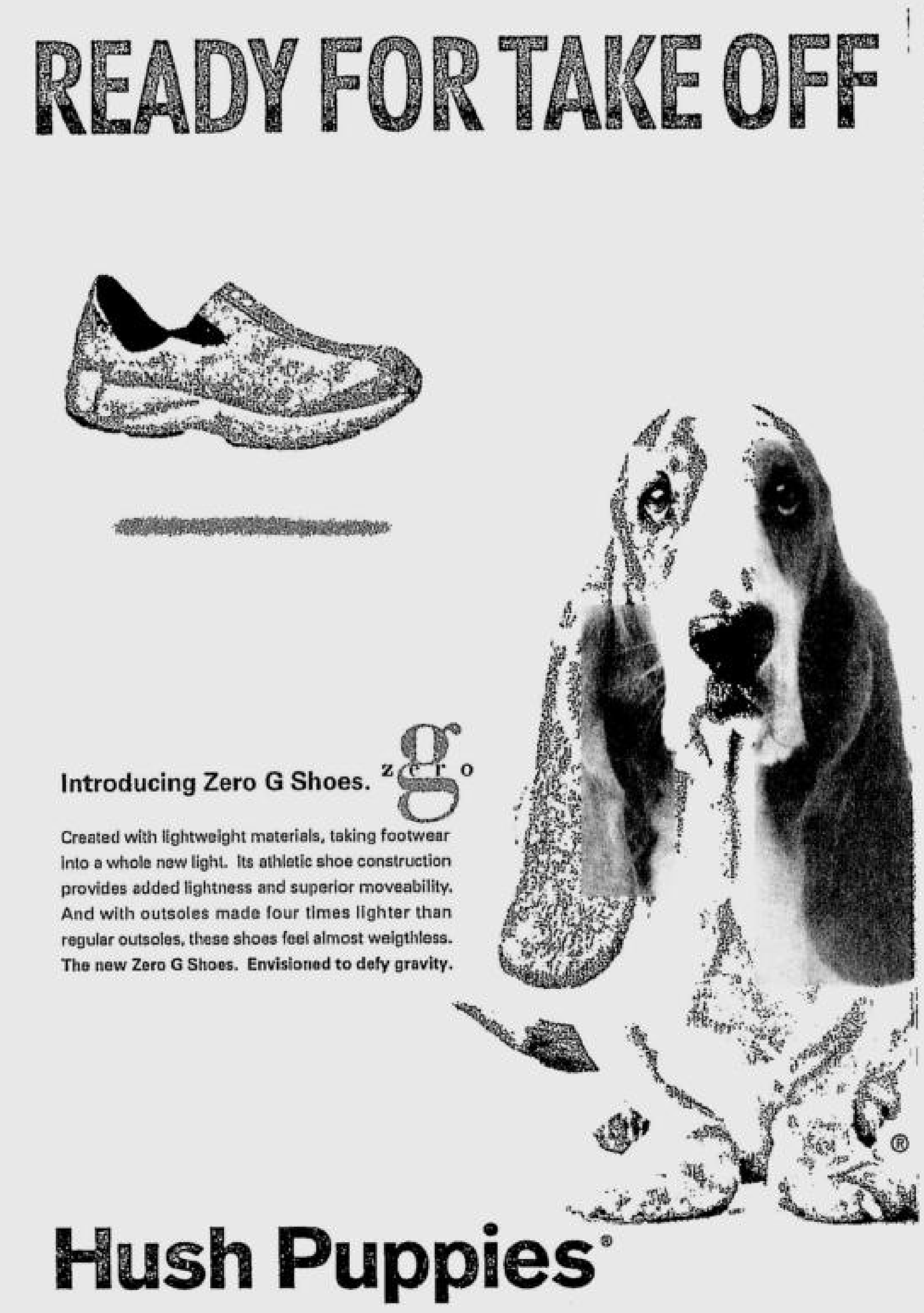
Offensive Player of the Year: James Yap

2002/ p.D3



ADMU'S Enrico Villanueva drops a pass to a teammate as he is triple-teamed by DLSU.

PHOTOS: ERNIE U. SARMIENTO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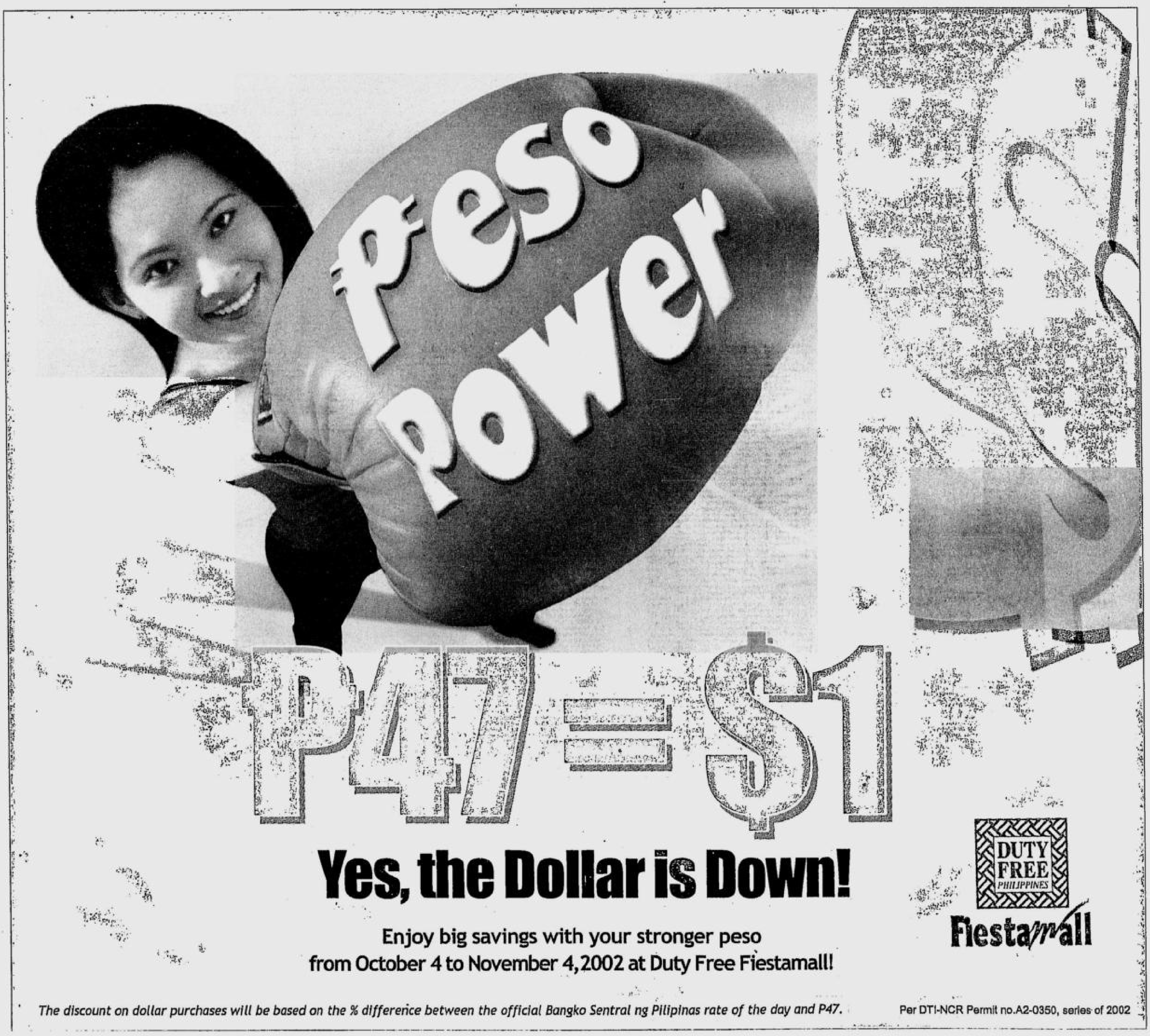

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Canon connections

By Joel V. Nigos

WE always have been used to do the things the usual way. Procedures we just follow because it's part of the system, although we hope or we believe there might be a better way.

The thing is, there's really a better way of doing things wherein you achieve the same goals or objectives but now you do it more efficiently, faster and you save on cost.

In the market today, it's solutions selling. It is what Canon believes can be of help to home or small offices or even to multinational companies. It is also solutions that Canon is introducing to the market.

"Most of the time, people are wary about solutions because a solution is really a service, it's intangible, you cannot see it. What Canon will do is let people actually see and experience these solutions. That way people can better appreciate what these solutions can do for them, whether at home or in the office," says Bong Serevo Jr., Canon's vice president for corporate communications, planning and information technology.

Serevo says that the purpose of Canon Connections is to introduce to the corporate world an integrated system whereby day-to-day office procedures are systematically done in a natural manner.

"Nowadays, the systemic approach involves people, involves setting-up of procedures. With these Canon solutions, anything else will become systematic. You just put one equipment there and everything else will follow," Serevo says.

He adds that all these six solutions give emphasis to Canon's core technology which is optics.

"We're actually No. 2 in the world for the most number of US patents secured, second only to IBM. That means, on a global scale, the consumers can be assured of the quality of Canon technology," Serevo adds.

Serevo says that they call it Canon Connections for obvious reasons.

"It has two meanings, connections of Canon products and Canon connections with people. So the main premise being, we want to show the public that all they need are Canon products in order for them to reach certain objectives whether personal or corporate or in the office environment or home," he explains.

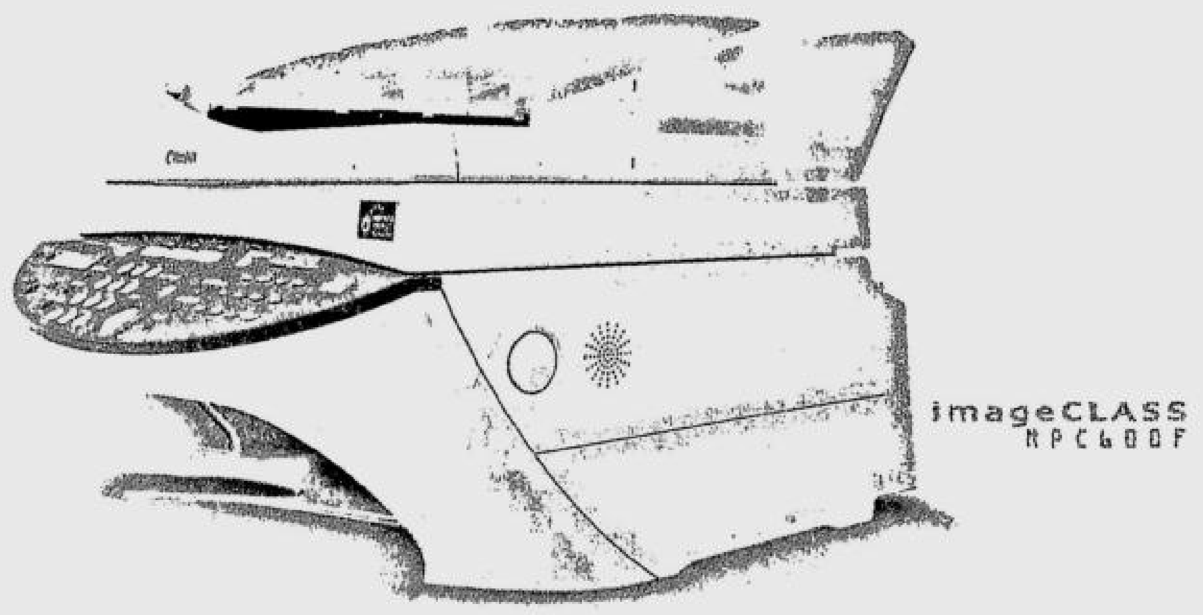
He further adds that the Canon solutions focus on four key products: camera, copier, scanner and printer. From these key products and technologies, Canon is creating solution packages that they believe will have its niche in the marketplace.

These six solutions can be integrated into one another Basically, it's input-output, and Canon has all of those. All of those can actually come together and that's the ideal situation for any company.

Canon has solution packages for use in small offices or in the home. With digital cameras, printers and certified Canon software as basic components of these solutions, users can take pictures and print them right away (with the photo-on-the-go solution), produce top quality pictures right in their own home (photo studio or digital dark room) or become overnight film makers (movie studio solution).

For multinational companies whose day-to-day operations now revolve around networking technologies, Canon also has solutions that would enable businesses to effectively manage their communications.

CANON/ E2



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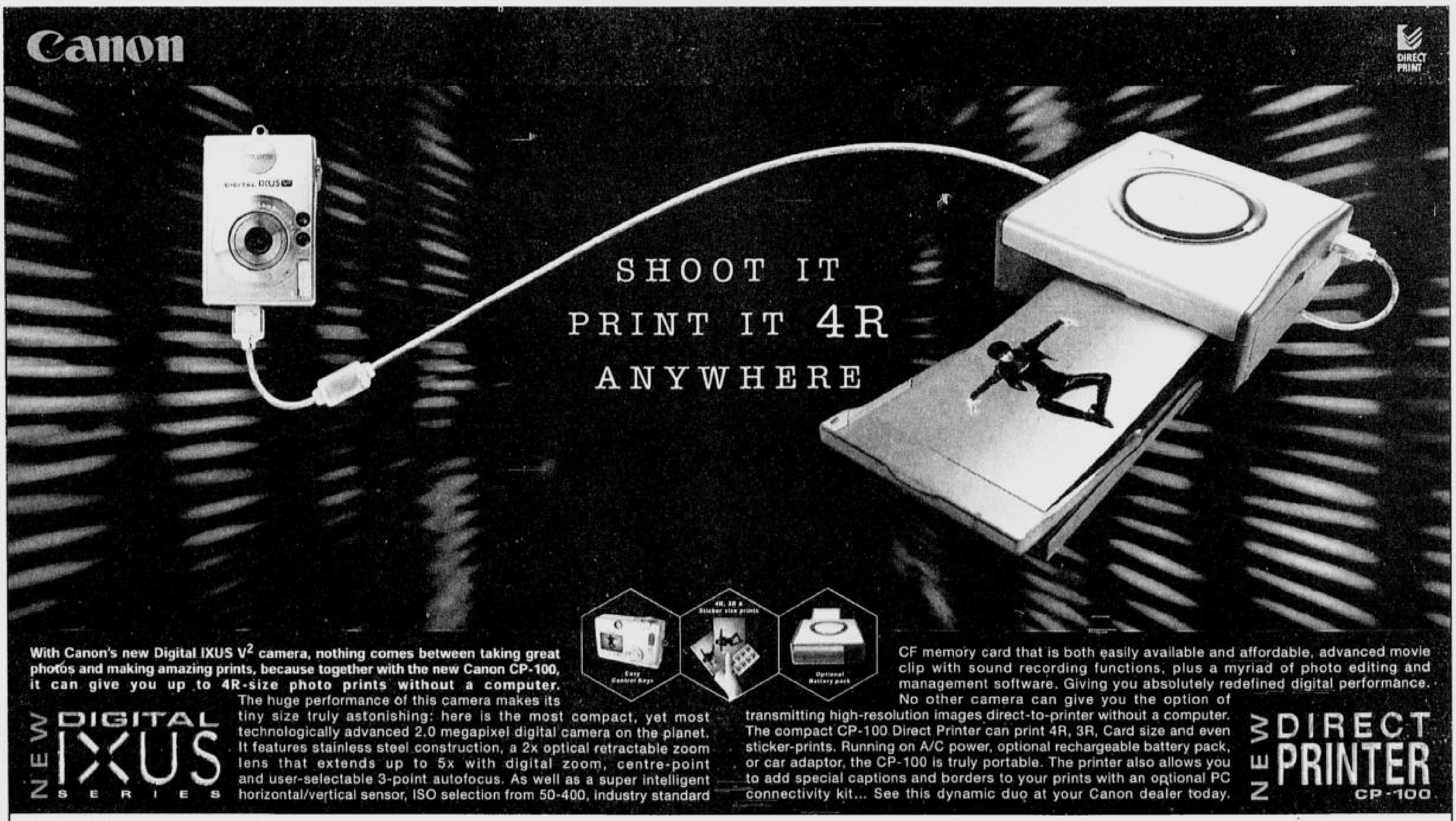

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Canon

HERE ARE CANON'S SIX SOLUTIONS:

Photo-on-the-go

Photo-on-the-go offers mobility and ease of use. With this solution, users can take photos of special events with a Canon digital camera, print the photos directly to a portable Canon printer (CP10 or CP100) and distribute the photos immediately to those who want it.

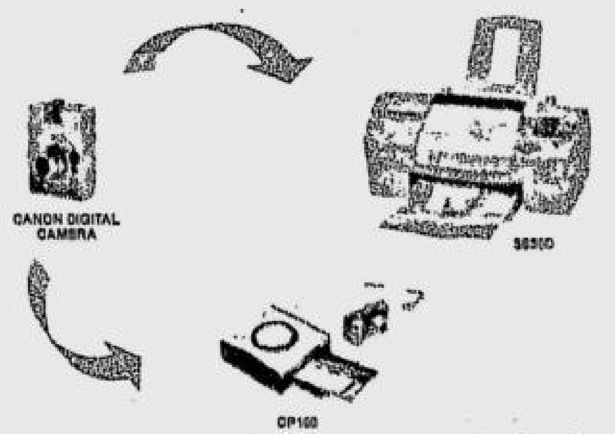
This is especially helpful to writers and reporters. Say, for instance, you want to have a feel of the situation. You can take a shot and have it printed right away. You don't have to go to a developing studio and wait for an hour before your photos are printed. You can do away with any other inconveniences that may come your way when you go about things the usual way.

This is also excellent for tourists who want to capture every moment while traveling or for people who are just into photography.

> With this solution, users can take photos of special events with a Canon digital camera, print the photos directly to a portable Canon printer (CP10 or CP100) and distribute the photos immediately to those who want it

IMAGING SOLUTIONS

SOLUTION 1: PHOTO - ON - THE - GO



No more waiting -- start printing!

Canon connections

from page E1

Document communication, print on demand and document management allow enterprises to share, file and transport vital information within or outside their networks, without compromising security. Moreover, these solutions help businesses cut down on high administrative costs that result from inefficient management of information.

One of the major benefits companies can achieve from Canon solutions, according to Serevo, is "a very soft landing in the digital age."

"We are now in the digital age of doing business. By going digital, the benefit would be, we still do the usual way of doing things but now it would be faster, would be more efficient and would result in less cost," Serevo adds.

Serevo further says that by using just one equipment for several office tasks instead of the usual practice of having many office equipment with each one serving a specific purpose, you save also workspace.

"Printers even in sleep mode consume electricity. Imagine, you have 200 employees and all of them or even half of them having printers, that consumes a lot of electricity. Now, you only have one machine—which can fax, print, scan, copy," relates Serevo.

And with less cost and less use of resources like paper, companies can also achieve near zero wastage of resources.

"With these solutions, you can see that distance is dead, that communication can be quick, efficient and secure, even in a network environment where many things are shared and are out in the open," concludes Serevo.

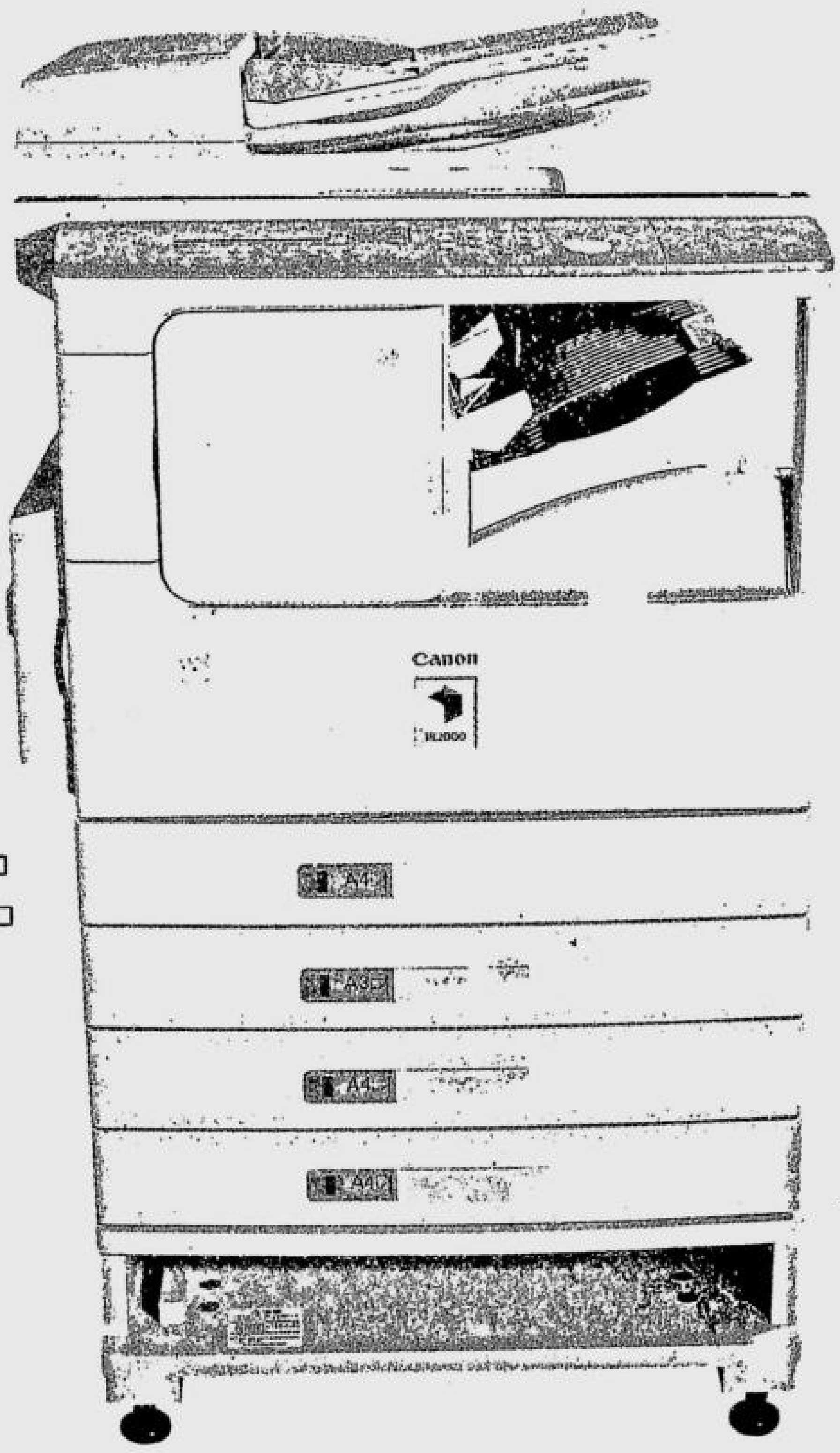
> We are now in the digital age of doing business. By going digital, the benefit would be, we still do the usual way of doing things but now it would be faster, would be more efficient and would result in less cost

Canon makes its move against copy cats

CURRENT legislation does not provide enough deterrent against enterprising individuals to reuse empty printer ink cartridges and sell refilled or compatible ink at cheaper prices, leaving private companies to carry out their own initiatives to counter the proliferation of refilled and compatible printer inks.

Refilled ink cartridges refer to original cartridges that were reloaded with ink that is not authorized by the manufacturer. Compatible inks are those that were manufactured to fit the specifications of the original brand but are marketed under a different name.

CANON MAKES/ E3



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- CANON PREMIUM ITEM
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THE NEW DIGITAL IMAGERUNNER 1600/2000**

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Finally, a digital multifunction workgroup solution without the hassles of ordinary digital copiers. It's the new Canon imageRUNNER 1600/2000. With a powerful, fast 200MHz print processor, it dramatically reduces your waiting time when printing critical documents. Plus, the imageRUNNER 1600/2000 allows copy scanning to take place even while printing is in progress. What's more, now is the best time to acquire one. That's because you'll get Canon Premium Items worth P24,000 for the iR1600 and P32,000 for the iR2000 respectively. Plus, you'll get free 10,000 sheets of A4 size copy paper, a Gift Certificate worth P3,000 and an imageRUNNER jacket. So don't wait, ask your local Canon representative about the amazing imageRUNNER 1600/2000 and take the hassle-free route to office efficiency.

**Shown with optional accessories

Promo Period: September 2 - October 31, 2002

Canon

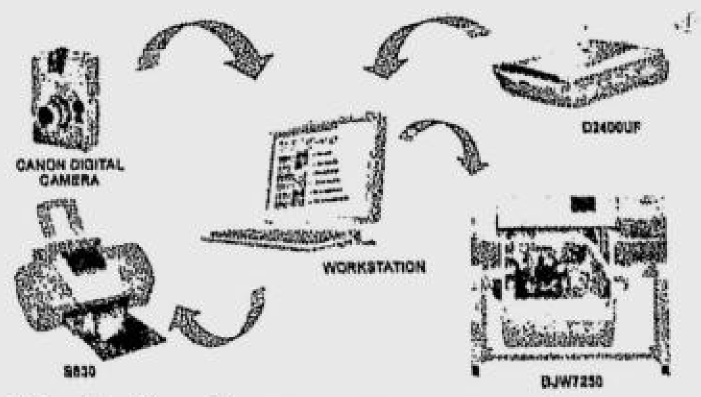
Canon Marketing (Philippines) Inc. Marvin Plaza Bldg., 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave., Makati City Tel. Nos. 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 E-mail Address: info@canon.com.ph
Branch Offices: CMP-BATAAN Dilig Bldg., Manuel Banzon St., Balanga, Bataan Tel No. (047) 237-2151 • CMP-CEBU Door 10, 1P & 20 Free Star Arcade Hernan Cortes St., Subangdaku Mandaue City Tel. No. (032) 345-3680, (032) 345-3821, Fax No. (032) 345-3691 • CMP-DAVAO Door 1 Navigators Bldg., Ponce cor. Gempesaw St., Davao City Tel. No. (082) 222-3392 Fax No. (082) 227-4820 • CMP-LA UNION Ground Floor M. Peralta Bldg., Quezon Ave., Sevilla Norte, San Fernando City, La Union Tel. No. (072) 242-0440, (072) 242-4587 • CMP-LEGASPI Door 7 & 8 CEA Bldg., Ground Floor, Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City Tel. No. (052) 480-6331, (052) 214-3863

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3632 Series of 2002

Canon

IMAGING SOLUTIONS

SOLUTION 2: HOME STUDIO



Digital darkroom

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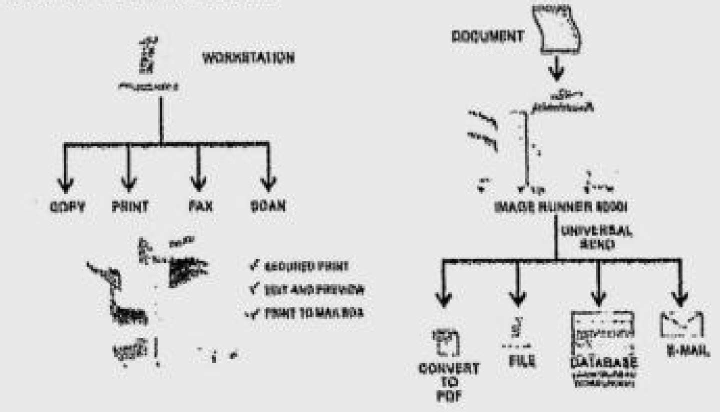
This is ideal not just for photo enthusiasts but also for small businesses which are into printing and photo capture. It is also excellent for small businesses like restaurants where you take pictures of your menus or small boutiques where you take pictures of your products or models, print it on photo paper, laminate it and right away display it. It costs only P10 to P15 a print, including paper, ink, electricity and other costs for an A4-size print.

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

SOLUTION 1: PRINT ON DEMAND



Acquire business agility - get your documents when you need it, where you want it, how you like it!

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For example, you need to bring 500 copies of a document to the 10th floor. What you usually do is you print them on your desktop printer and bring all those copies all the way to the 10th floor. What if you slip or somebody spills his drink on your copies, you have to do it all over again. With print on demand, this solution has the facility to print your document anywhere in your network.

These solutions really work in a network. Like when you're printing a manual. Not everybody wants a manual. What you do with print on demand is you save the document in the printer and those who want it can just print their own copy. You can also have back-to-back printing and it will even collate the pages. If you want it printed in booklet style, it can. All you have to do is click, print and wait.

Confidential documents can also be kept from prying eyes by sending these to the printer mailbox, which can be accessed either by the person for whom it is intended, or to the person who actually printed the document.

So there's security. In network printing, usually there's no security. When you print, you have to run to the printer across the office to make sure that your document is not seen by others. With Image Runner, it can actually secure your document. You input a numeric password (4 to 7 digits) and it will only print when you access it.

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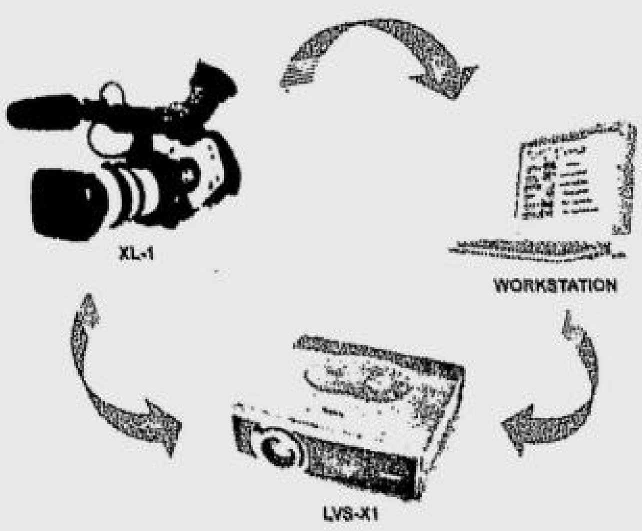

Life is a movie -- start shooting it!

Movie studio

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Canon

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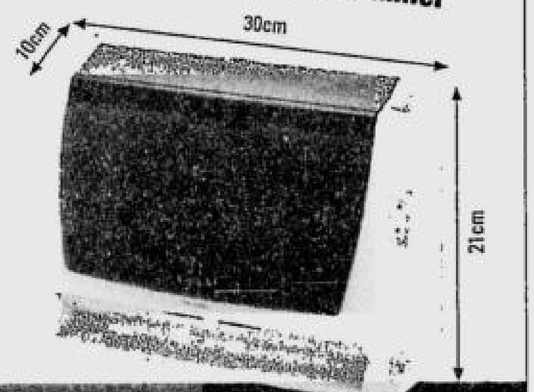
NEW!

Canon DR-2080C
Colour Document Scanner



From Paper to Digital in Seconds

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A4 monochrome/colour

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A3 monochrome

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CD-4050/4050N
Up to 37ppm, Duplex
A4 monochrome
Scans and writes into
CD-R (Built-in)

Just scan through these specs

Small 30 X 10 X 21 cm, only 2.5 kg
Sleek Compact counter-top design
Speedy 20 ppm**
Smart
- Scan to e-mail and print
- PDF creation
- Skip blank pages and more..

Superior performance
- Jam-free paper flow
- Reliable document feeding

Superb image output
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**Subject to certain scanning conditions

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Canon

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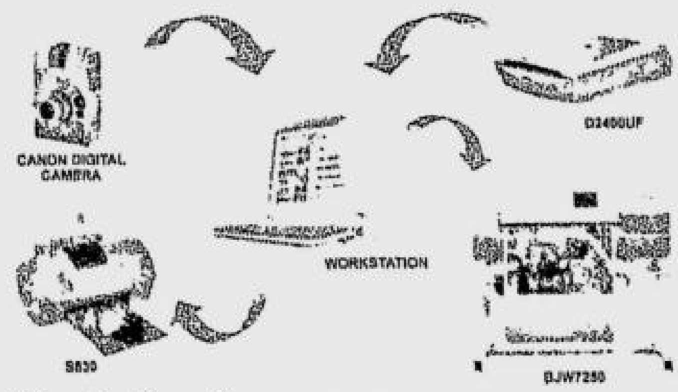

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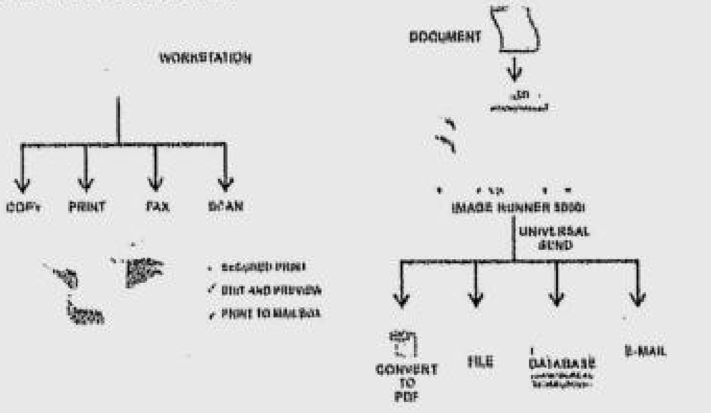

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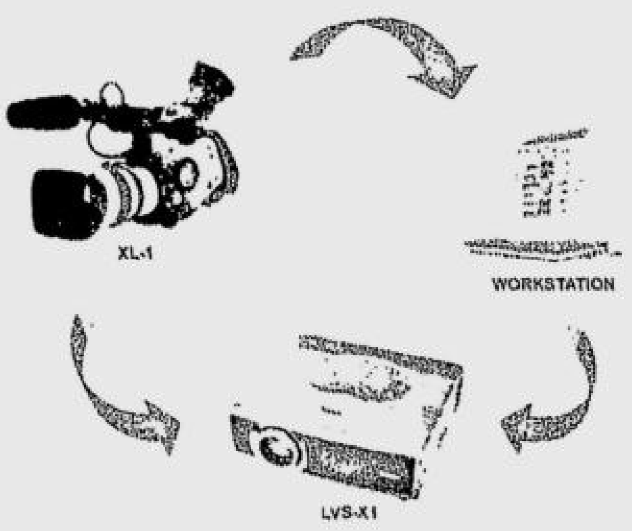

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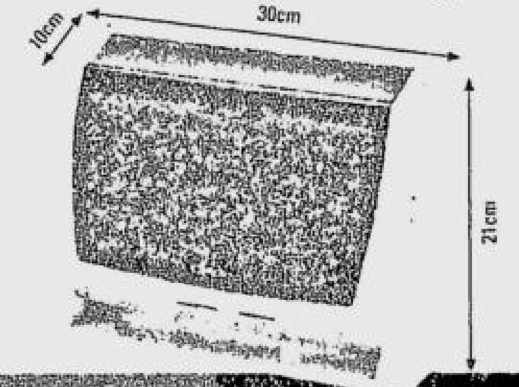

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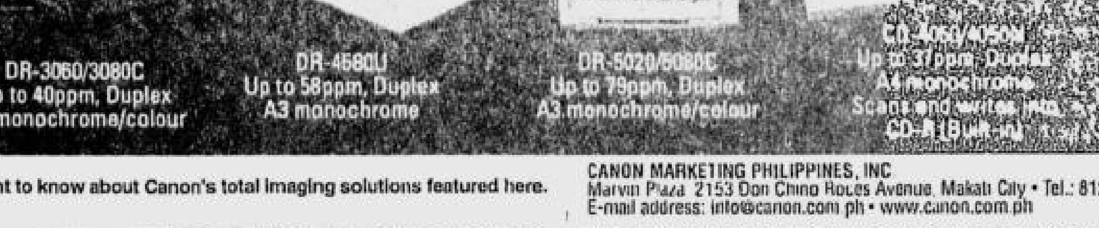

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CD-4050/4050N
Up to 37ppm, Duplex
A4 monochrome
Scans and writes into
CD-R (Built-in)

Just scan through these specs

Small 30 X 10 X 21 cm,
only 2.5 kg
Sleek Compact counter-top design
Speedy 20 ppm**
Smart
- Scan to e-mail and print
- PDF creation
- Skip blank pages and more..

Superior performance
- Jam-free paper flow
- Reliable document feeding

Superb image output
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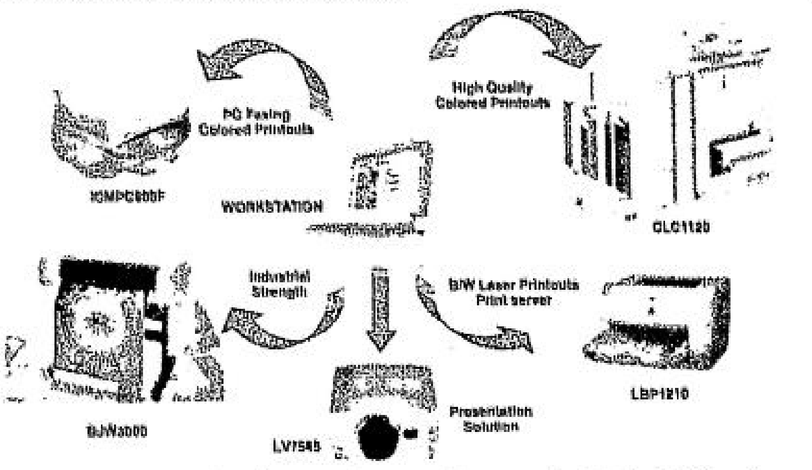
Canon

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

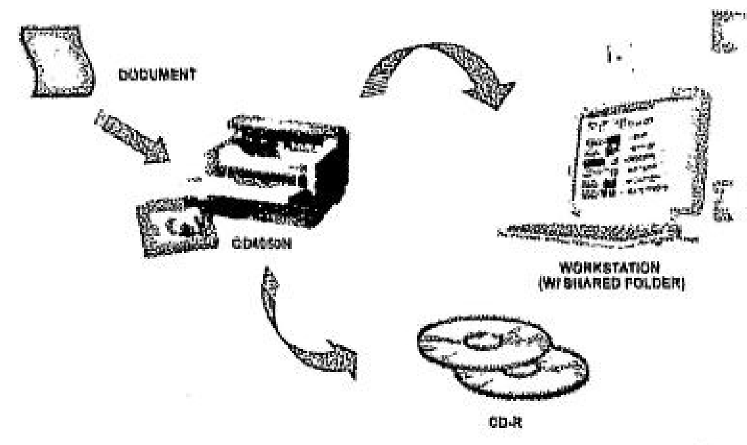
SOLUTION 2: DOCUMENT COMMUNICATION



Move your business -- let your documents do the talking!

OFFICE SOLUTIONS

SOLUTION 3: DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT



Stop wasting time -- Digitalize your documents!

Document communication

Basically, what document communication means is you have a piece of document and you want to communicate it. In the olden days, the way to communicate a document is to send it around, send it to the intended recipient. In the usual way of doing things, sometimes documents are lost, so there was no communication. The objective was lost.

With document communication, offices can convert documents (from 50 to 100 at a time with Canon's document scanner) into digital format and you can e-mail it, fax or archive the documents for future reference. It can also direct faxed documents to a specific mailbox to ensure that only the person for whom the document is intended receives it.

It's about sharing documents with the workgroup, though with some parameters. So they'll have access to the documents they need and then they can go ahead with their individual function.

This is very important in a business where a document is a prime medium of exchange of information. Share, file, transport. That's what document communication does.

In this solution, you can communicate your document effectively through the use of Canon products.

Document management

Document management is basically how companies manage their documents. Sometimes, you don't need to print, you just want to communicate. With the Image Runner, you can scan the document and convert it into a PDF file. The PDF file is "read only" so it cannot be altered. It is secured. And you can e-mail straight the PDF file to whoever you need to communicate to. This way, you avoid printing the document then faxing it which is the normal way of doing things. So, you both save on time and on cost (and on fax paper).

This solution is especially helpful when retaining invoices. The government says that companies need to retain their invoices for five years. The usual solution is to buy cabinets and stock all the invoices there. The Canon solution is to convert that document to something small, that's legally acceptable and easily retrievable. The Canon document scanner can be very helpful for this. It converts paper documents into different formats so it can be shared and can also be retrieved easily. You can even set conditions, you can have a very good handle of your business, looking back or moving forward.

Every company needs to manage the way they communicate. Document management provides them a facility, not just an equipment or device, for them to manage information in document or electronic form. Whichever they choose, this solution can be of big help. It's about converting your normal documents into something digital. That's what document management all about.

Canon cameras cited by Europe's largest multimedia groups

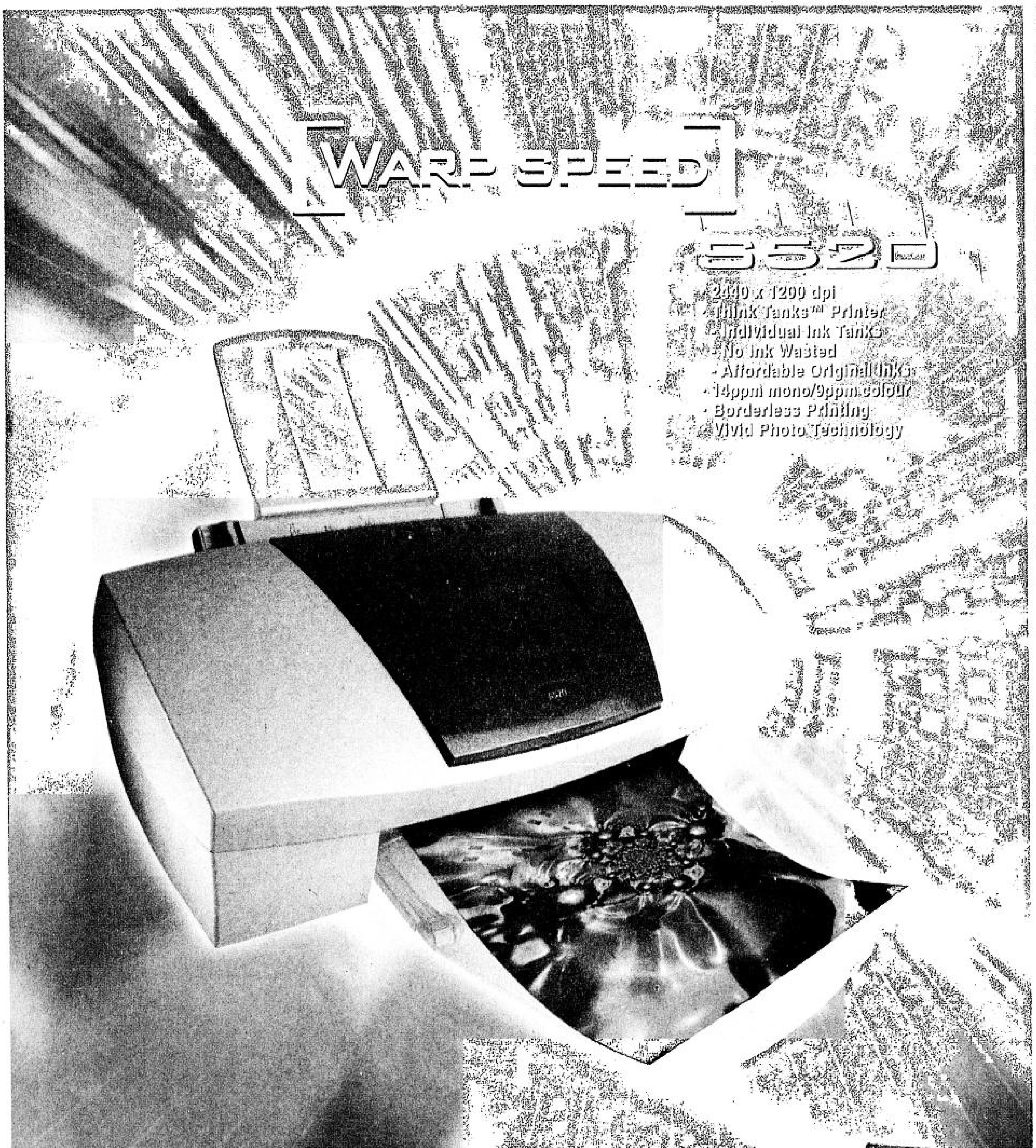
CANON digital cameras earned the nod of Europe's most prestigious multimedia organizations for their high quality features and value.

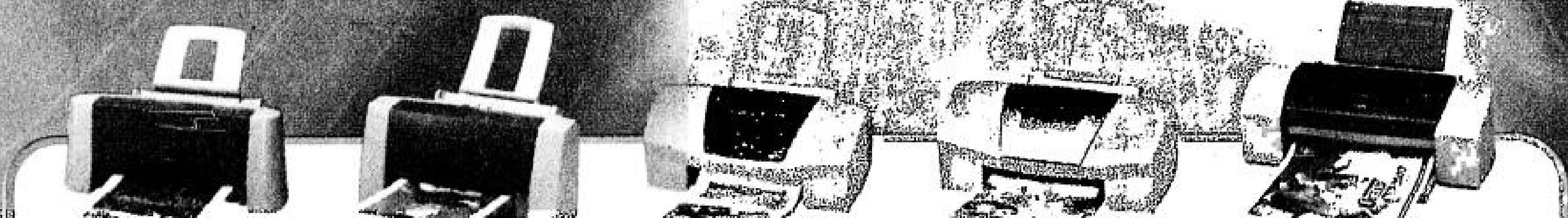
The European Imaging and Sound Association (Eisa) named Canon's PowerShot G2 as the European Digital Camera of the Year 2002/2003. EISA is the largest multimedia organization in Europe, with a membership of 40 Audio, Video and Photo magazines drawn from 20 countries in the continent.

In announcing its choice, Eisa said the PowerShot G2 is a "sturdy and most versatile camera with 4 megapixels resolution. It's packed with user features, such as the fold out, rotating LCD, sharp 3x zoom lens and ability to use an external flash. It has a long-lasting, lithium-ion battery pack and a really impressive picture quality."

The PowerShot G2 offers SLR-like controls to the advanced amateur or semi-professional photographer with the advantage of compact portability. It delivers optimum image quality with its loss-less RAW image recording mode, new Digital Signal Processor (DSP) and RGB filter. Three auto-focus modes, including continuous, single and three selectable AF points with 12 shooting modes, means the G2 can always deliver ex-

CANON CAMERAS/ E3





S200SP
Compact & high performance photo printer.

S300
Quality prints with speed and performance for the home and office.

S520
High performance Think Tanks printer for the office.

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10...9...8...7...Lift off! At 14 pages per minute (monochrome) and 9 ppm (colour), the new Canon S520 Bubble Jet printer takes your office and home printing to a new height with incredible efficiency. All thanks to Canon's Precision Colour Distribution Technology, which ensures greater colour consistency at such high speeds. When printing photos, images and charts, the new S520 delivers prints that are surprisingly realistic and vibrant. And with Canon's assurance of Out of the Box Performance, the new S520 gives the best print speed and quality combination. Even at default mode. So get into high gear and check out the Canon Bubble Jet Printer S520 or any of our vast range of Bubble Jet Printers for all your printing needs.

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Canon
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BPI Card

Aggie Pinili, Account Manager
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph
Aries Espinosa, Editor

BPI Credit Cards' installment madness

IT WAS in 1994 when BPI Credit Cards started offering the best value-for-money deals for its credit cardholders with its first Appliance Madness event. Since then, there has been an increasing customer demand for more truthful, reasonable and no-nonsense credit card payment schemes.

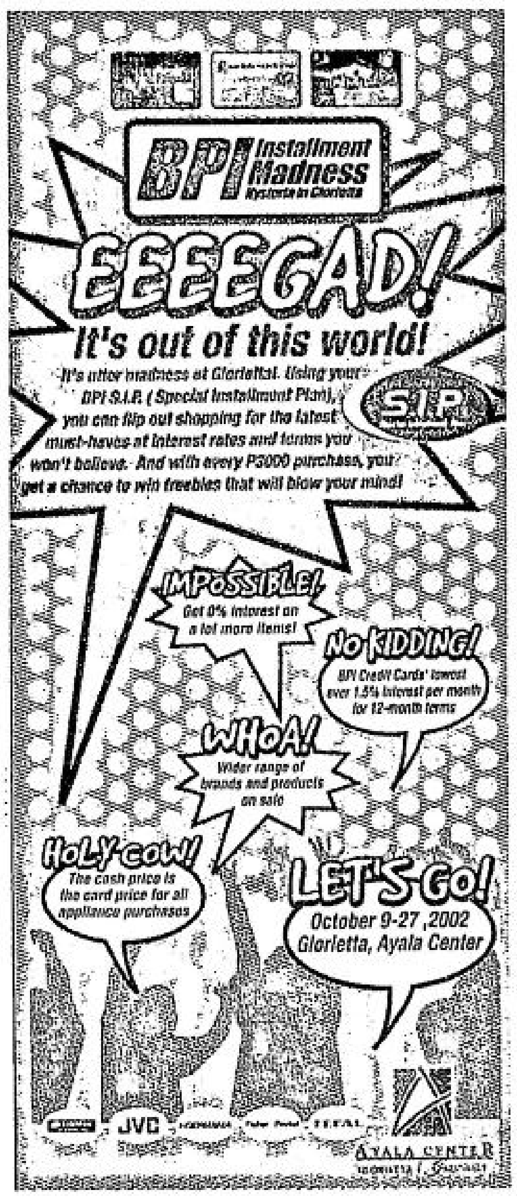
BPI Credit Cards believes in giving value to its credit cardholders. And through the years, BPI Credit Cards has answered these needs by providing the most convenient and accessible credit card features and benefits, which include flexible payment facilities and practical promotional events.

It is along these commitments, and with an appreciation of a growing cardholders base, that the BPI Credit Cards' Installment Madness has evolved. The Installment Madness promotional event, which is held at the Glorietta, has been enhanced and expanded to match the ever-growing needs of the BPI Credit Cardholder.

Introducing the BPI Installment Madness Hysteria!

This 29th edition of the BPI Installment Madness is happening from Oct. 9 to 27 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center Makati. And this time, the Installment Madness comes with more exciting offers led by attractive installment offers via BPI Credit Card's SIP (Special Installment Plan), which al-

BPI/ F2



BPI Installment Madness
Hysteria in Glorietta

EEEEGAD!
It's out of this world!
It's utter madness at Glorietta! Using your BPI S.I.P. (Special Installment Plan), you can flip out shopping for the latest must-haves at interest rates and terms you won't believe. And with every P3000 purchase, you get a chance to win freebies that will blow your mind!

S.I.P.

IMPOSSIBLE!
Get 0% interest on a lot more items!

NO KIDDING!
BPI Credit Cards' lowest ever 1.5% interest per month for 12-month terms

WHOA!
Wider range of brands and products on sale

HOLY COW!
The cash price is the card price for all appliance purchases

LET'S GO!
October 9-27 ,2002
Glorietta, Ayala Center

JVC
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BPI and Casio EMI

CASIO Electronic Musical Instruments, the leader in the music industry, joins BPI Installment Madness at Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Music enthusiasts can now have the chance to own their Casio keyboard as it offers 0-percent interest rate for 12 months with special installment plan. With BPI, Casio EMI lines up its wide array of special keyboards to suit your taste, style and need from Oct. 9 to 27.

Casio's WK-1500 greets the professional keyboardist with its all-around 76-keyboard great for rock, pop, classical, and just about everything in between. Its general Midi compatibility and memory up to 10 setups is just right for professionals with their great musical talents. Avail yourselves of WK-1500 together with WK-1600 and WK-1800 with as much as 44 percent off from the regular price.

Casual keyboardists can now have CTK lineage with free adaptor and keyboard stand. CTK 501 with 100 built-in tunes to play along with and a Musical Information System that guides you through cords and notes on a big LCD screen is available for only P9,395. CTK-671 with ZPI sound source, 142 digital effects, a song memory of up to 3,600 notes, and 61 full-size keys with touch response is now sold for as low as P19,385.

Neophytes need not worry because Casio's key lighting keyboard will let them be who they want to be in music. The LK-60 song bank controller allows the individual to practice left and right hand parts along with the playback of built-in songs. It has 100 built-in tunes and a reverb effect for a more powerful and exciting performance. Learn to play your favorite tunes in just three steps with LK-60, LK-50, LK-35, LK-65 and LK-80.

Casio enhances that musical ingenuity of your kids with its SA-6. This 32 micro mini-size keys have 5 drum pads with 100 tones, 19 rhythms and 13 accompaniments, and weighs only 0.6 kg. Its light enough for your child but great for nurturing his musical abilities.

Grab the chance now to visit the Casio Electronic Musical Instruments exhibit with the 29th BPI Installment Madness at Glorietta and enjoy living music at heart with Casio.

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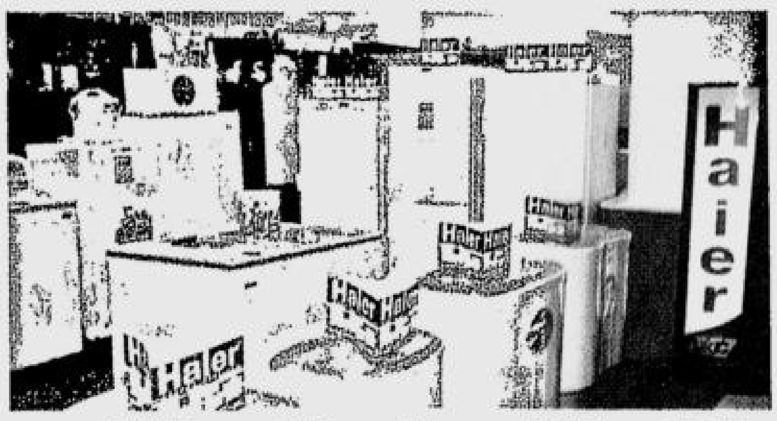
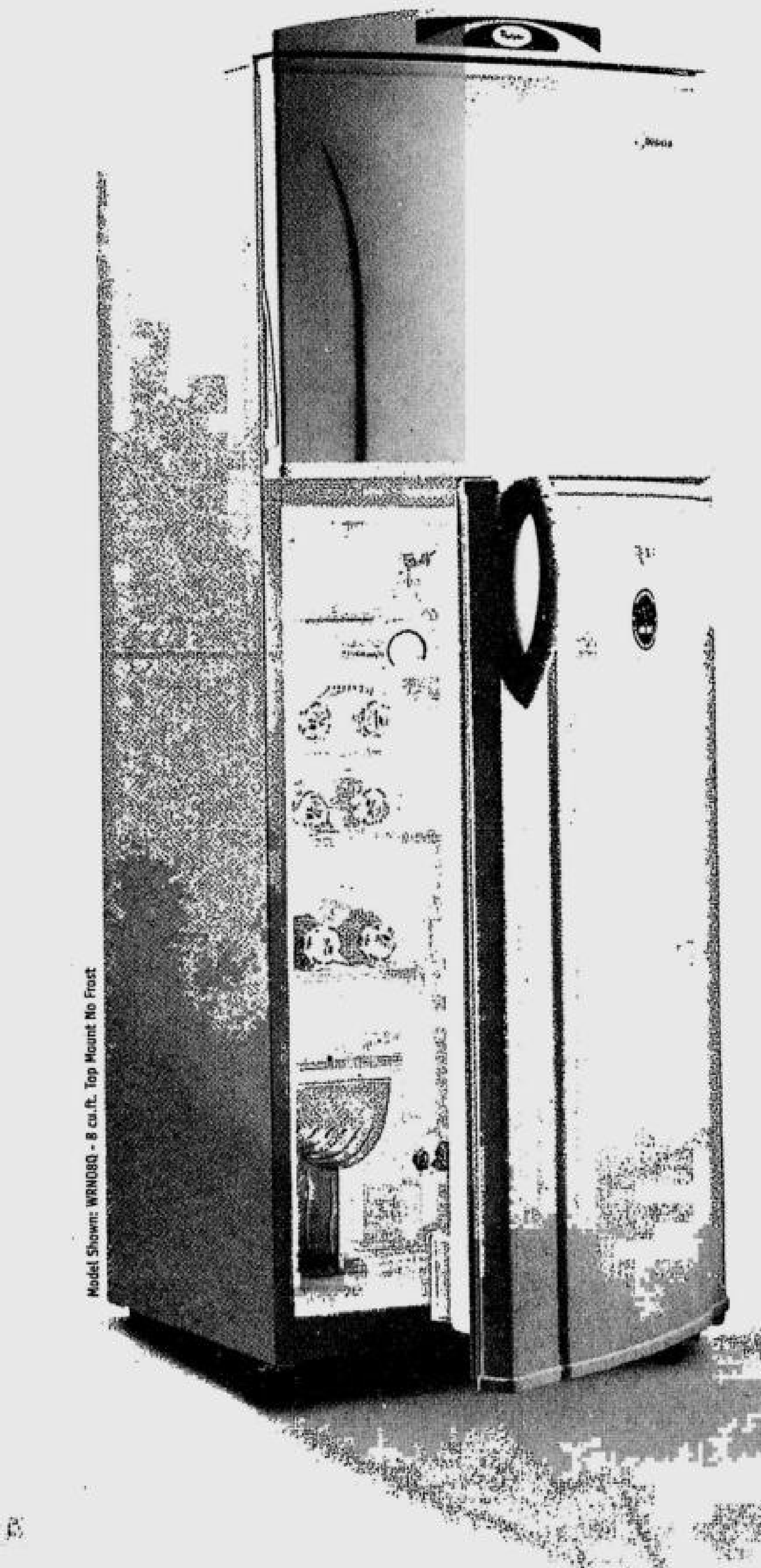


Carrier
Carrier


Model Shown: WRN08Q - 8 cu.ft. Top Mount No Frost

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Makes ice faster.

Cools drinks quicker.

That's

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It gets cold inside right away.

So you save a lot on energy consumption.

Now that's zero waste.

TOUGH & EFFICIENT COMPRESSOR

For lowest energy consumption.

FOAM-IN-PLACE INSULATION

Sealed-in coldness to withstand long hours of brownout.

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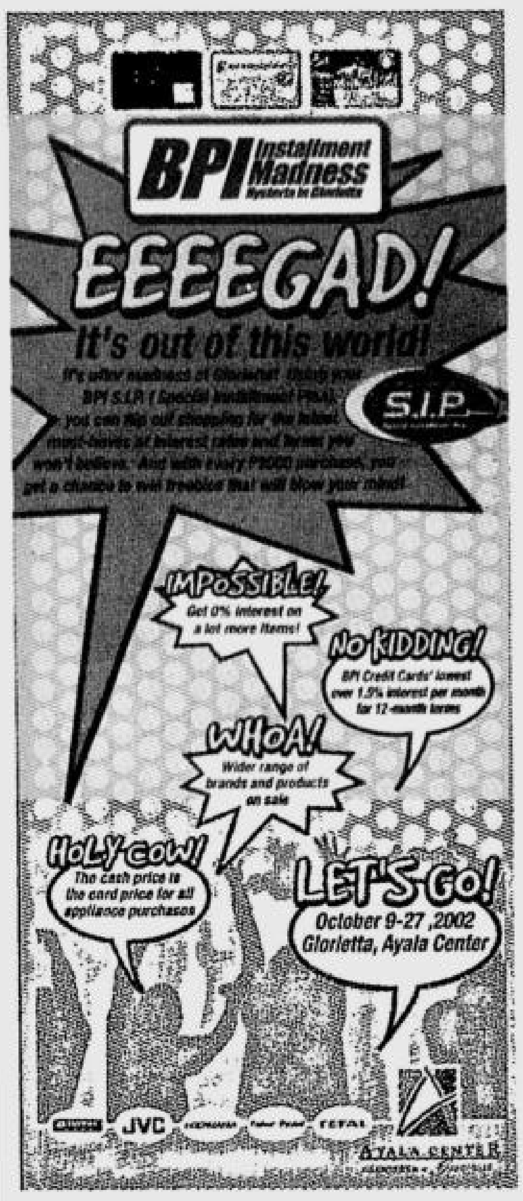
Other models available: WRN10Q - 10 cu.ft. Top Mount No Frost; WRN11Q - 11 cu.ft. Top Mount No Frost; WRD 92E - 9 cu.ft. Single Door Direct Cool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IMPOSSIBLE!
Get 0% interest on a lot more items!
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BPI Credit Card

from page F1

lows cardholders to purchase on installment in convenient terms of 3,6,9,12,18 and 24 months.

Widest range of products on 0 interest

With the 29th Installment Madness, cardholders will get real savings with a lot more products available at Zero Percent Interest. Using their BPI Credit Card SIP, cardholders may choose from the widest-ever range of items they can buy on installment at no interest at all.

The lowest installment interest rates

BPI Credit Cards offers real and reasonable value with its lowest-ever monthly interest rate of 1.5 percent over a 12-month installment period, and this payment scheme is available at the Installment Madness.

Promotional credit line increase

Cardholder convenience is top priority, so BPI Credit Cards extends to its qualified cardholders a promotional credit limit during the entire Installment Madness promo period.

More products to choose from

From what started as an "Appliance Madness" event, this special installment promotional event has progressed to cover practically everything that a cardholder can purchase using SIP. In this 29th Installment Madness, BPI Credit Cards offers the latest models of appliances as presented by the country's leading appliance manufacturers: Aiwa, Akira, American Home, Ariston, Concepcion-Carrier, Electrolux, Fedders, General Electric, Haier, JVC, Kolin, Konka, La Germania, LG Collins, Midea, National, Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool and White Westinghouse.

Also showcased at the Installment Madness are furniture from Ambiance One, Blims and Home Plus. Rustan's Marketing shall also be on-hand to offer a wide range of unique and exclusive home decors and accessories, with a special range of items for the coming Christmas Season.

And of course, the latest in computers and electronic gadgets courtesy of Compex, Electroworld, Silicon Valley, The Computer Authority and Villman Computers are offered.

Cardholders will surely be delighted in choosing the latest original movie title as presented by the country's leading video software companies, MagnaVision and Warner Home Video.

Globe Handyphone can also be seen at the Installment Madness with great deals on the latest in cellular phone technology. Casio will also be representing its most entertaining lines of musical instruments. A minimum purchase of P3,000 (single receipt) gives cardholders a chance to win amazing freebies.

Of course, the Installment Madness would not be possible without the significant support given by its major partner, VillMan Computer Systems, a leading dealer of computers and peripherals.

So come on over to the Glorietta and bring your BPI Express Credit, BPI MasterCard and BPI-Petron Mastercard and experience the madness – this time in full hysteria at Glorietta.

(The BPI Madness Installment Madness promo is also available from Oct. 9 to Nov. 15 at all branches nationwide of participating dealers Abenson, Ambassador, Anson's, Automatic Center, SM Appliance, Sogo, Waltermart, Western Marketing, and J&R Appliance.

GE's stainless profile Arctica now in RP

THE BEST has gotten better. GE's US-made side-by-side refrigerator, which has revolutionized refrigeration with its sleek, sophisticated design, time-saving benefits and energy efficiency, now offers additional revolutionary features and options.

Now, GE's new side-by-side stainless refrigerator called Arctica offers a number of exceptional high-performance capabilities of which most notable is the exclusive CustomCool technology. A fresh take on cooling, this bottom pan feature offers three settings for different lifestyle needs. The CustomCool ExpressChill setting cools foods and beverages in minutes, not hours. The ExpressThaw setting on the CustomCool pan thaws meat and other freezer items safely in hours instead of days. The SelectTemp setting allows the user to select just-right temperatures for specific foods. Using these specialized settings, one is able to avoid the last-minute rush and simply relax. Whether the occasion calls for impromptu hors d'oeuvres for 20 or filet mignon for two, CustomCool takes care of everything.

In addition to its exclusive CustomCool feature, the QuickIce feature in the freezer accelerates ice production, producing up to 50 percent more ice than normal cycles for impromptu get-togethers and social occasions. The new TurboCool setting revives the refrigerator after the door has been opened for an extended period of time or when a hot item is placed inside, cooling the refrigerator back to its preset temperature quickly.

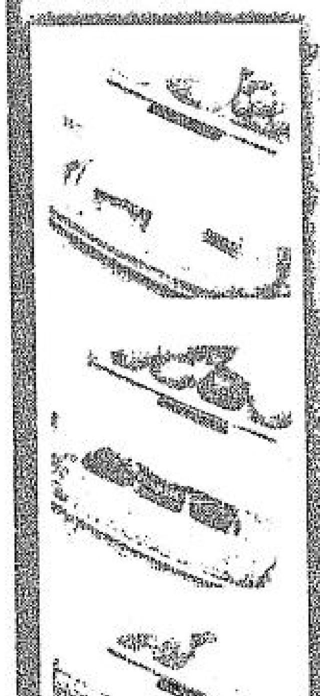
The Arctica side-by-side has an exclusive ClimateKeeper system which offers the best temperature management system one can buy with up-front digital controls that are precise and easy to use and more electronic sensors than competitors' systems, each positioned for maximum effectiveness. Its multi-flow air system includes more vents than competitors' systems and uses exclusive fresh food and variable speed freezer fans to keep temperatures consistent.

The new tri-level lighting system provides multiple light sources that cast a bright glow throughout the interior of the refrigerator, making every jar and bowl visible. At the same time, GE's Arctica offers substantial environmental benefits and valuable energy savings since it complies with 2002 energy standards and 2003 clean air requirements. The NeverClean Condenser ensures that Arctica virtually never needs cleaning in normal operating environments.

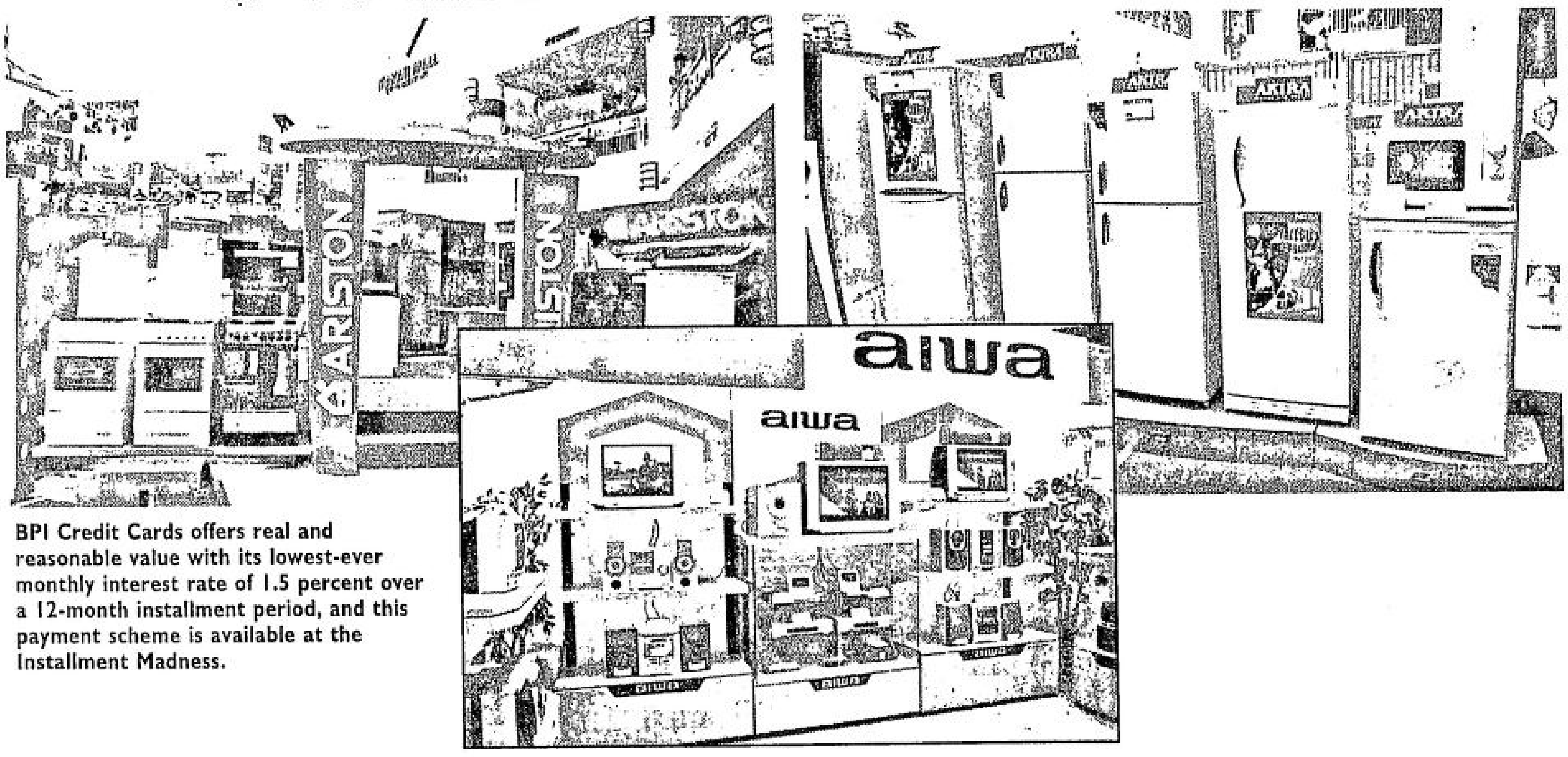
For those concerned about the safety of their drinking water, Arctica answers the need with the built-in SmartWater filtration system which provides clean, better-tasting water and ice through the LightTouch Dispenser. The new and taller LightTouch dispenser can accommodate and fill sport bottles, pitchers and even blenders.

Best of all, these innovative cooling capabilities are present in the sleek stainless steel side-by-side design which gives the kitchen an immaculate appearance. Stainless steel conveys a look of utmost polish and sophistication. Those who are serious about their kitchens, particularly when it comes to dining and entertaining, will find multi-taskers like the Award-winning Arctica refrigerator absolutely indispensable. Combining high-style [illegible] performance, GE's Arctica side-by-side stainless refrigerator can truly be called the ultimate in refrigeration.

GE Appliances' Official Philippine Distributor is CYA Industries with Main Service Center located at 103 Mercedes Avenue, Barangay San Miguel, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 631-8282, 633-2906 or 887-0075.



CUSTOMCool is GE's bottom bin feature that lets one ExpressThaw, ExpressChill and select just-right temperatures for specific foods.



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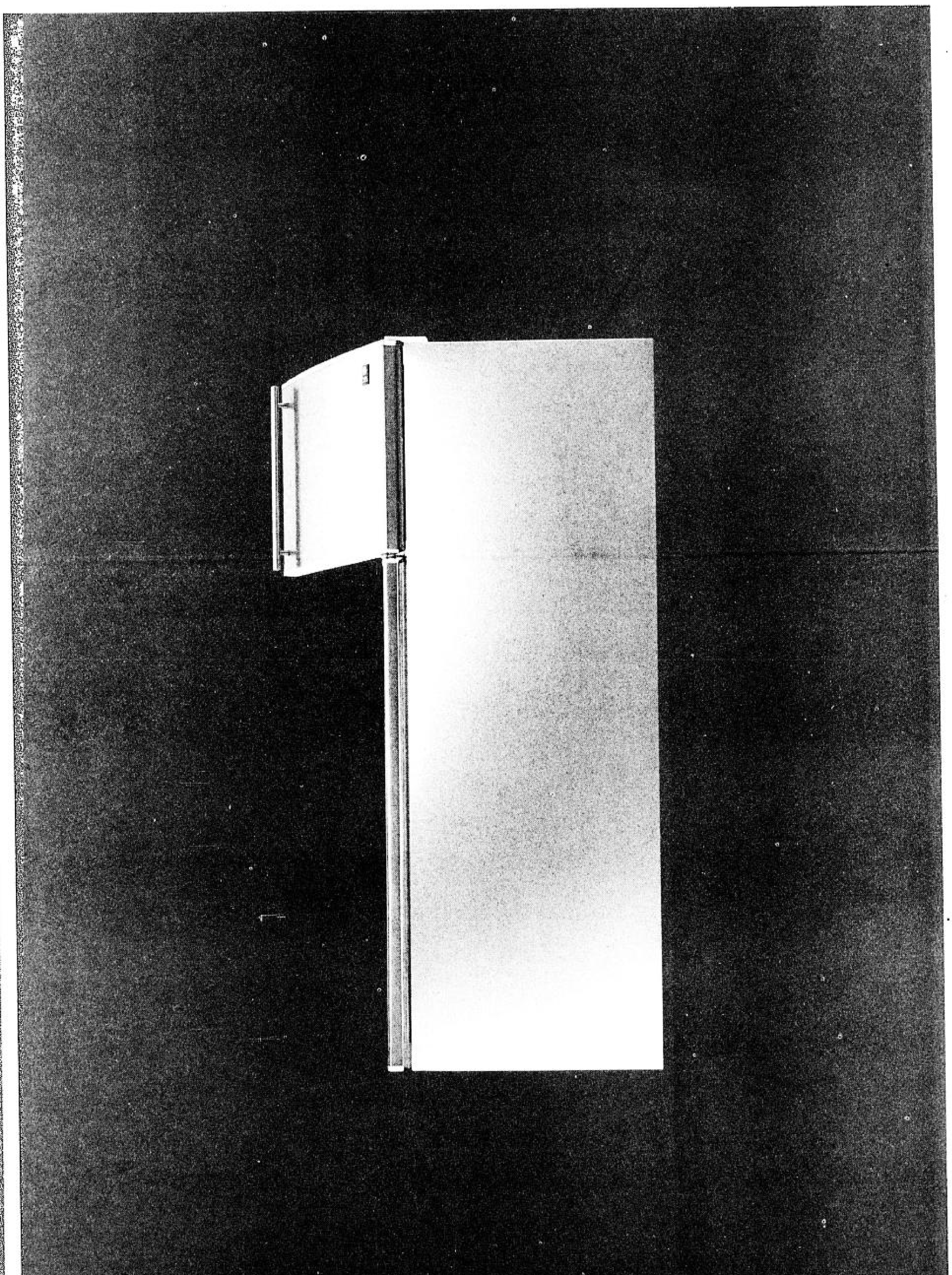

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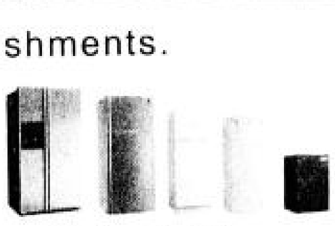
- America's Most Preferred Appliance Brand • Reader's Digest Platinum SuperBrand Award for refrigerators, Gold Award for washers • America's Most Admired Company 1997-2002 • Top Choice of builders and re-modelers across the U.S. • Three-time No.1 white line at the BPI Credit Card Installment Madness • No.1 white line at the SM-Citibank Appliance Exhibit

Thank you to all our loyal GE owners for your continuous patronage.



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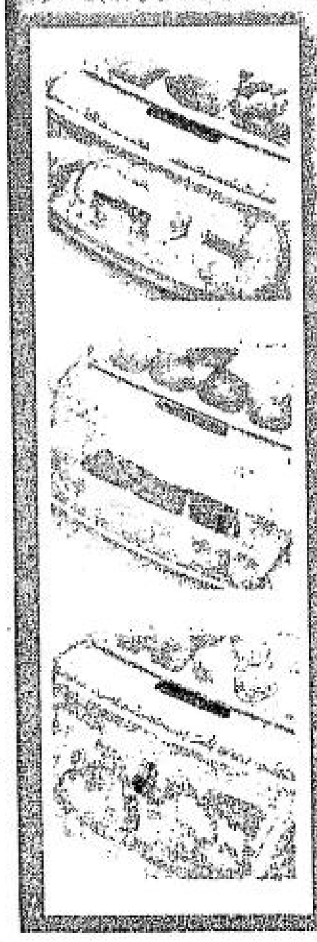

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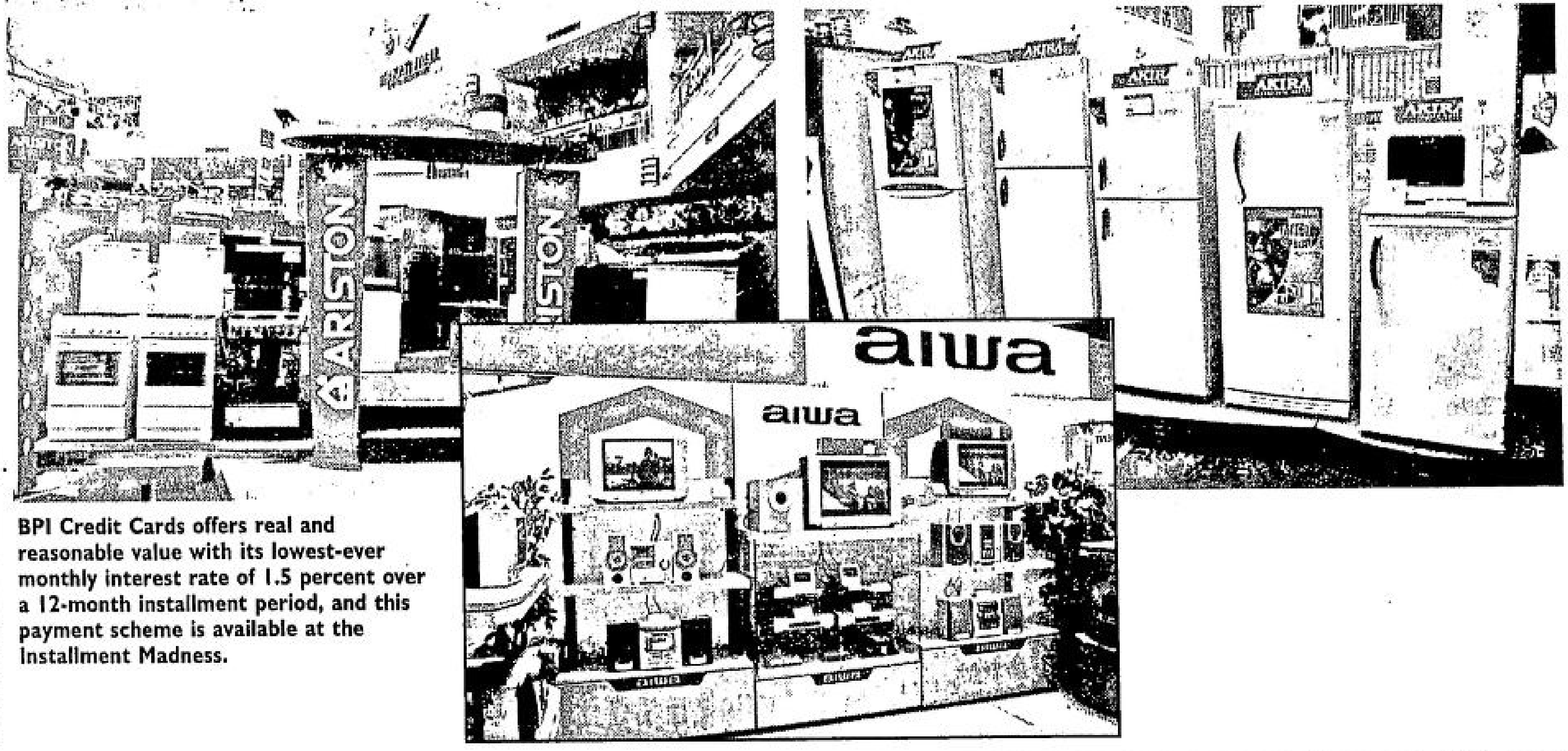

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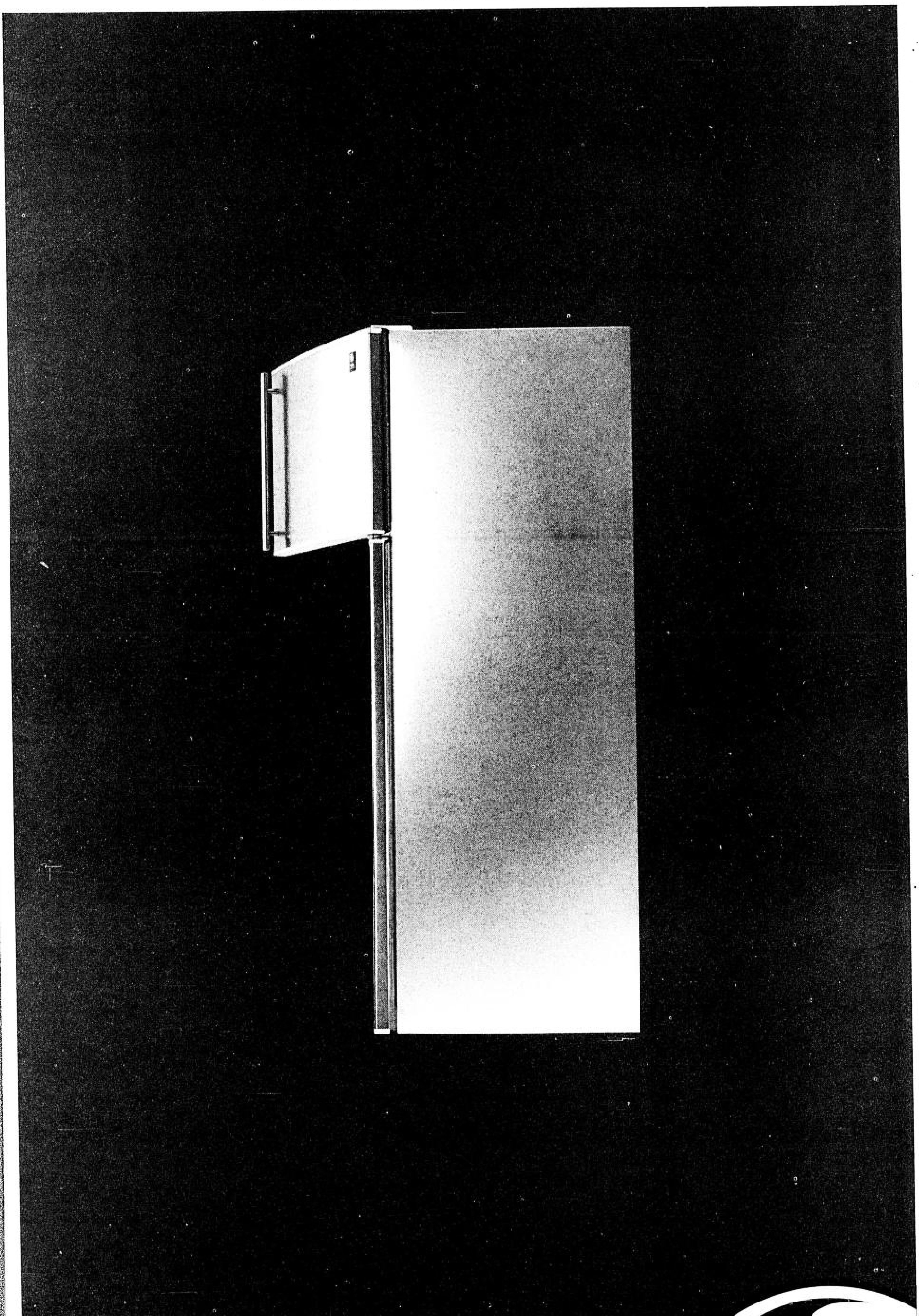

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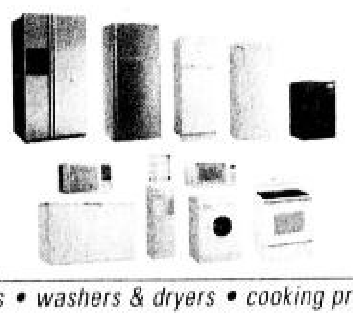

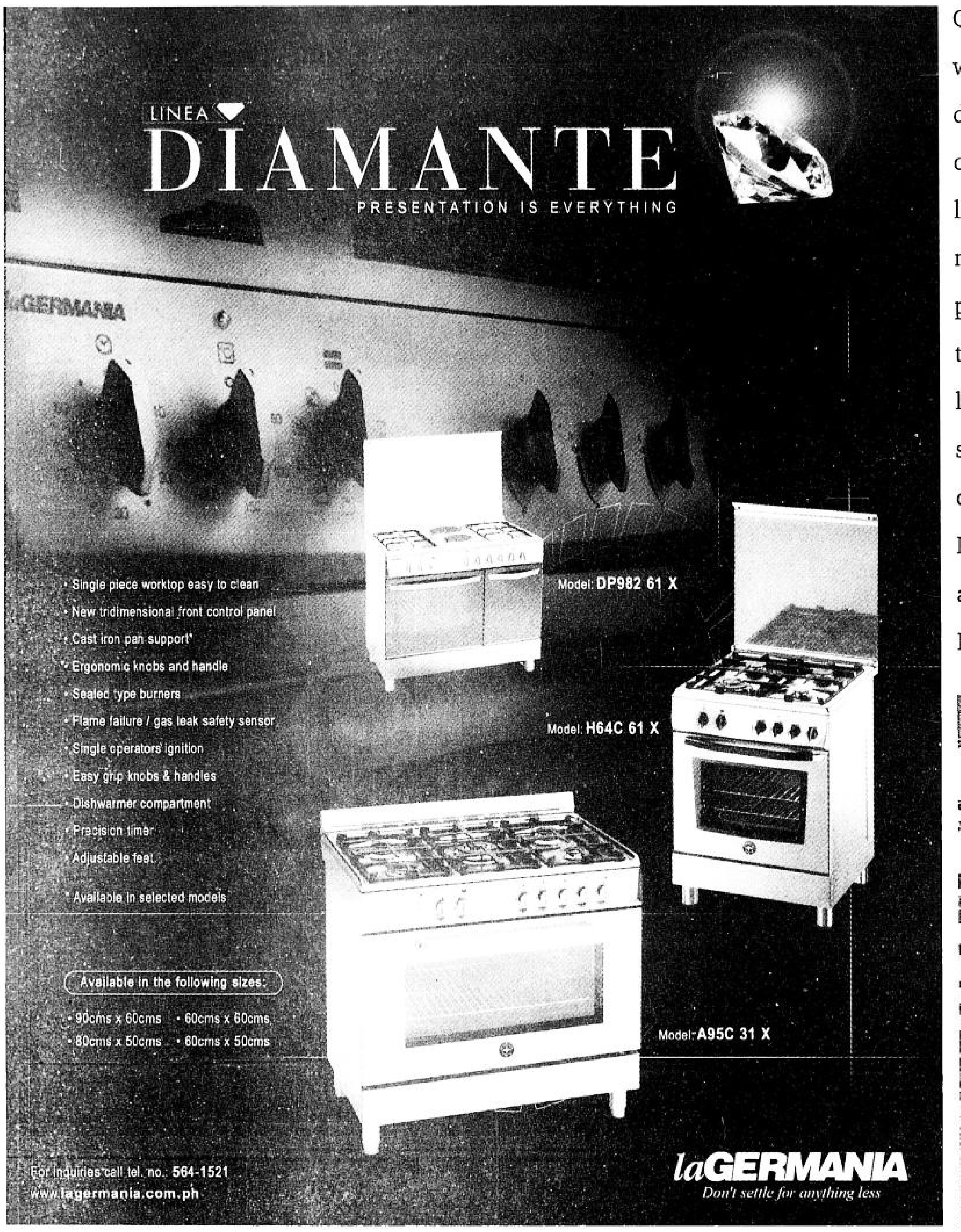

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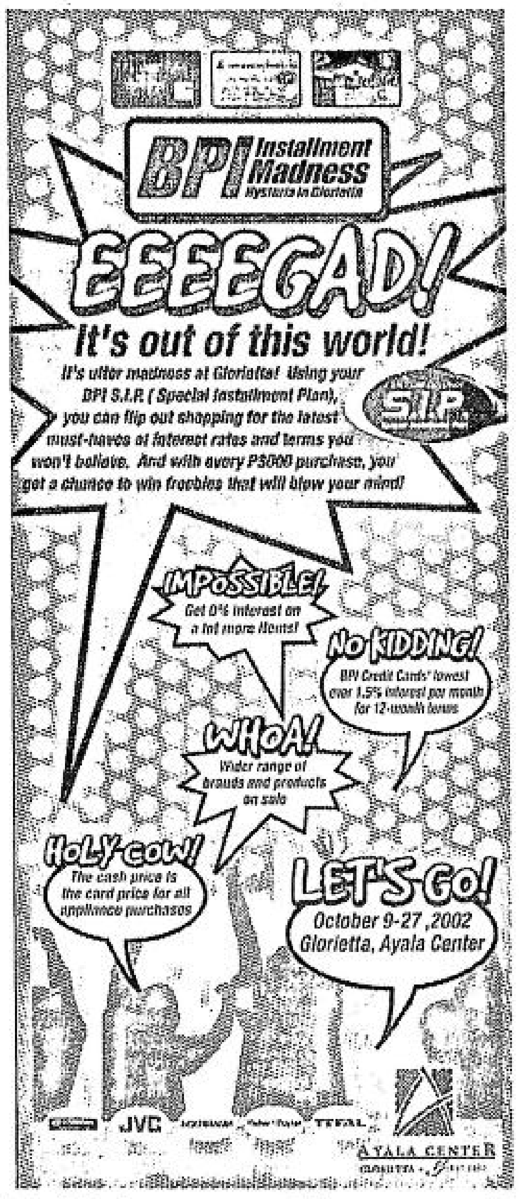

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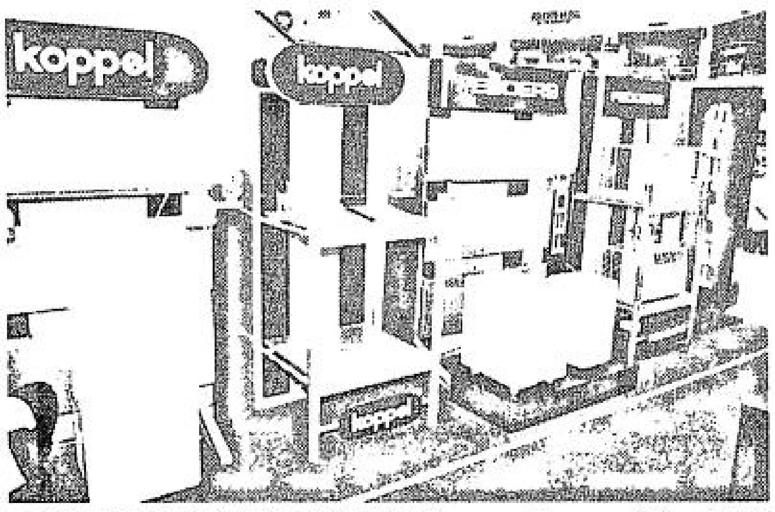

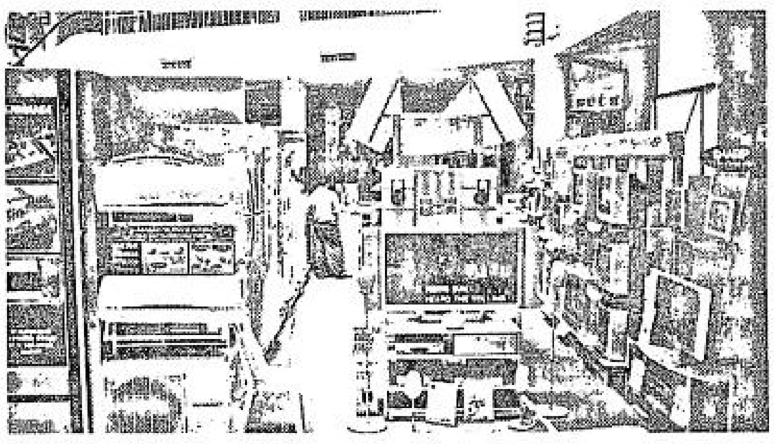

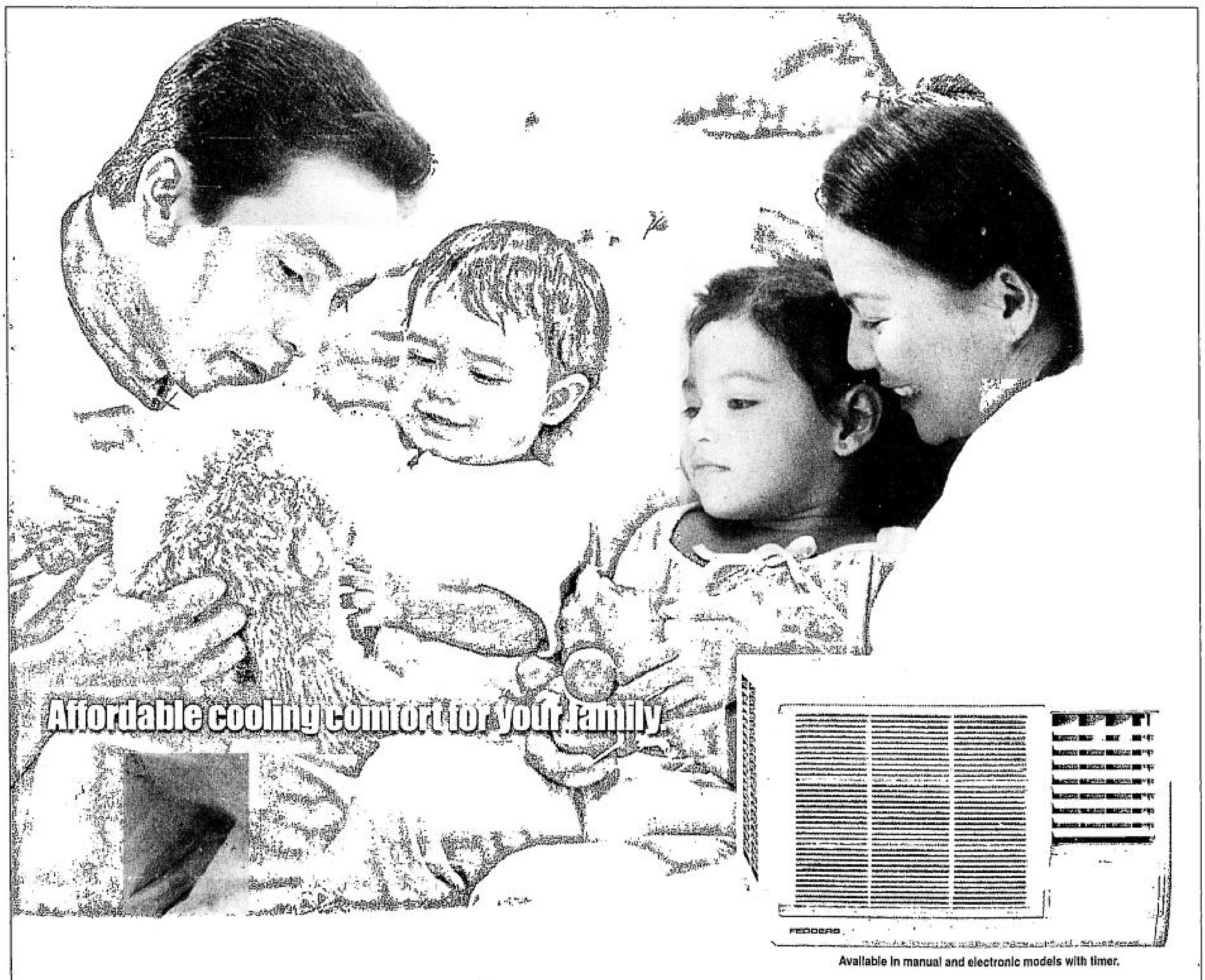

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You may also visit the Fedders Koppel, Inc. booth at the BPI Installment Madness from October 9-27, 2002 at Glorietta Mall, Makati City.

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Fedders® is a registered trademark of Fedders North America, Inc

Another first from GE: the stainless steel Bar Fridge

GE INTRODUCES its latest in direct cool refrigeration: the GE's Stainless Bar Fridge. With its stainless steel panel and clean back design. It is, without a doubt, the showpiece of the room or office.

"The new stainless personal ref from GE is also ideal for studio type condominiums and hotel rooms because of its classic stainless design," says Joey Manuel, CYA's National Sales Manager. "It would definitely enhance the room's appearance while providing excellent refrigeration which is what GE is known for," he adds.

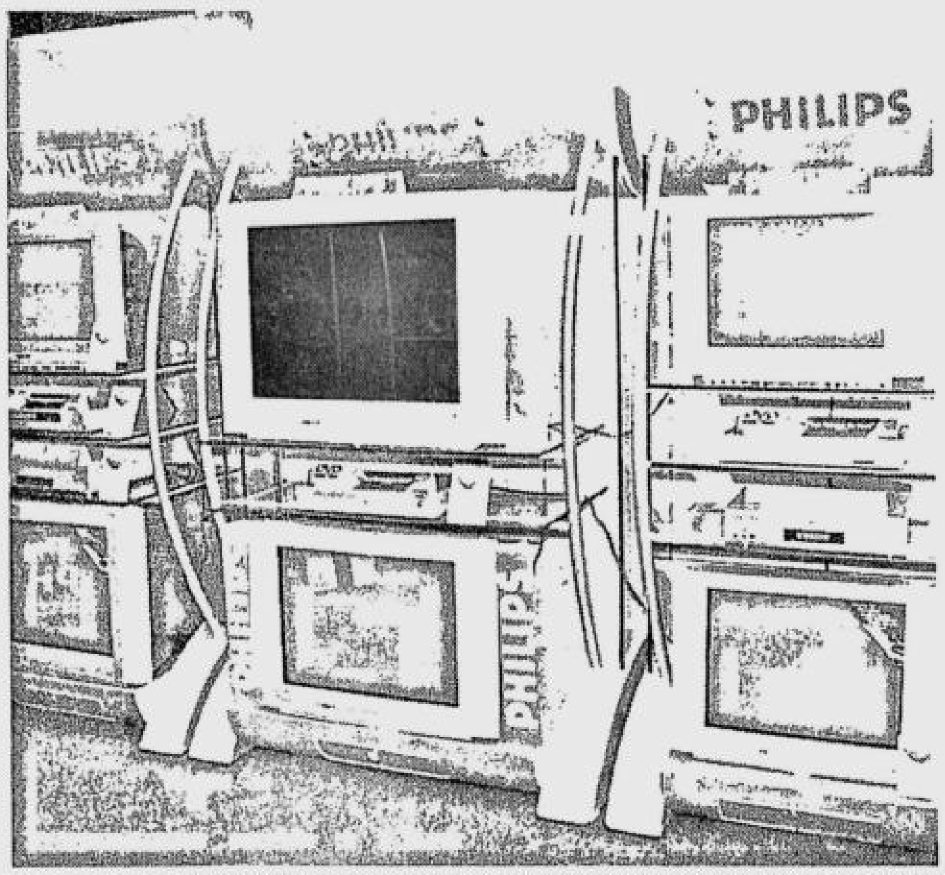
GE's stainless steel bar fridges come in 3 and 5 cu. ft. variants. Responding to the market's growing demand for the stainless look or design, GE also released its new Asian Top mount ref with the stainless appearance -- ideal for the budget-conscious customer who wants that modern silver look. Models come in 8.5, 10, and 12 cu. ft. variants, all with the convenient no-frost feature.

GE Appliances' official Philippine distributor is CYA Industries with its main service center located at 103 Mercedes Avenue, Barangay San Miguel, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 631-8282, 633-2906 or 887-0075.

Catch GE's Stainless Bar Fridge at the 29th BPI Cards Installment Madness on October

More perks at latest Madness

la GERMANIA



THERE'S MORE in store when BPI credit cardholders take part in BPI Card's latest Installment Madness dubbed "Hysteria In Glorietta" from Oct. 9 to 27 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

This pre-Christmas Installment Madness now has more exciting offers: 0-percent interest on a wider range of items; incredible savings with the low, low monthly rate of 1.5 percent over 12 months; an even wider range of brands and products on sale, such as appliances, furniture, audio and video equipment, computers, handhelds, and sports equipment; no surcharges—the cash price equals the card price for all appliance purchases.

For a minimum P3,000 purchase (single receipt), participating BPI credit cardholders get a chance to win any one of over 200 instant prizes. Even more convenient, qualified cardholders will get a promotional credit limit.

The SIP or Special Installment Plan is the second credit line used for installment purchases. Because it is now automated, it is more convenient to use as there is less waiting time.

For "Hysteria In Glorietta", the participating appliance manufacturers are Aiwa, Akira, American Home, Ariston, Concepcion-Carrier, Electrolux, Fedders, General Electric, Haier, JVC, Kolin, Konka, La Germania, LG Collins, Midea, National/Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool, and White Westinghouse.

For furniture, there's Ambiance One, Amity, Blims, and Home Plus.

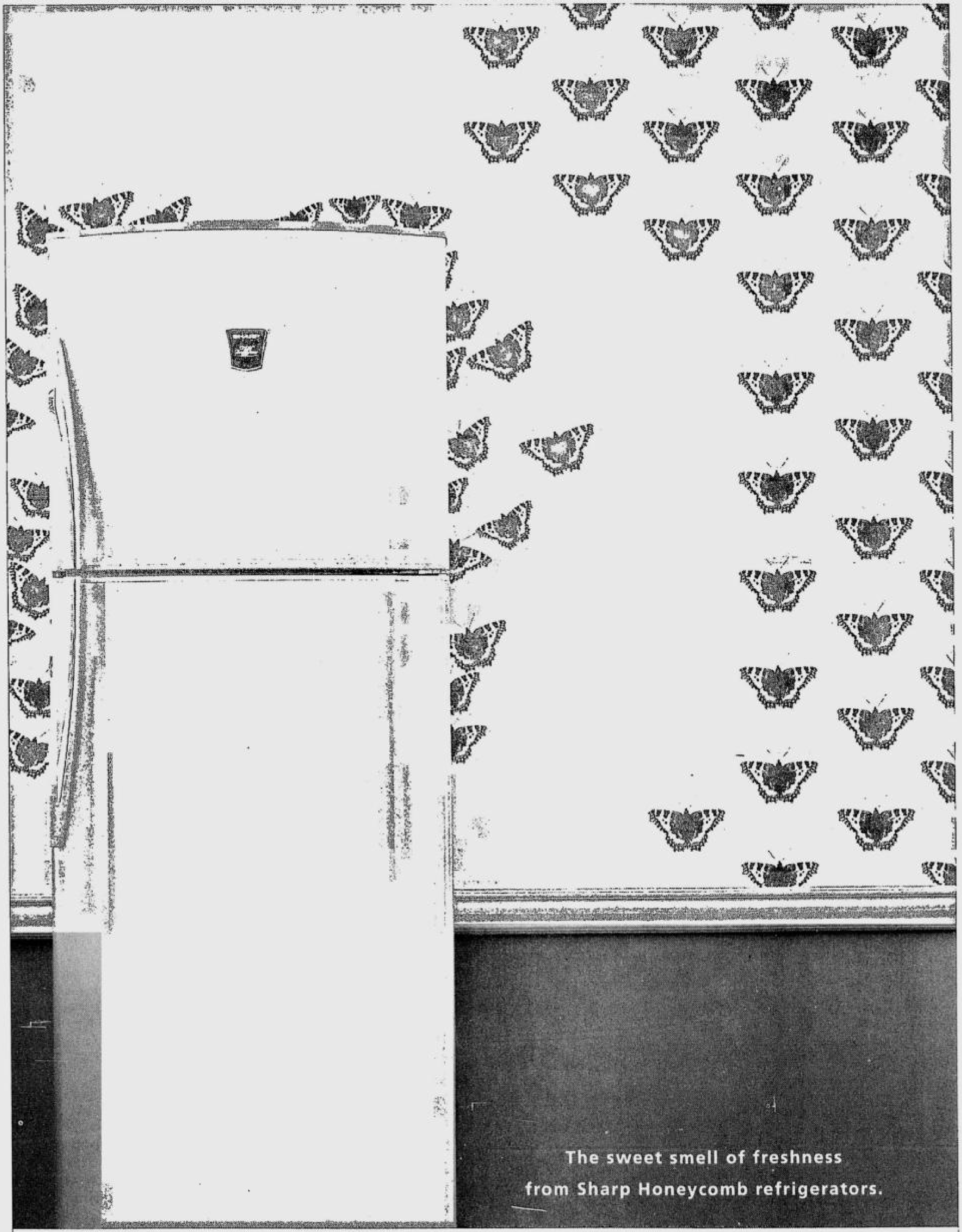
Computers are from Compex, Electroworld, Silicon Valley, The Computer Authority, and Villman.

There's also a variety of great stuff coming from Canon, Casio, Globe Handyphone, Kodak, Magnavision, Rustan Marketing, Sports House, Tefal, and Warner Home Video.

The Installment Madness is also available at all branches of these participating dealers: Abenson, Ambassador, Anson's, Automatic Centre, SM Appliance, Sogo, Waltermart, Western Marketing, and J&R Appliance.

So bring along the BPI Credit Card and enjoy the sensational offers of "Hysteria In Glorietta".

For 'Hysteria In Glorietta', the participating appliance manufacturers are Aiwa, Akira, American Home, Ariston, Concepcion-Carrier, Electrolux, Fedders, General Electric, Haier, JVC, Kolin, Konka, La Germania, LG Collins, Midea, National/Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool, and White Westinghouse


The sweet smell of freshness
from Sharp Honeycomb refrigerators.

Absolutely no foul smell can reside in a Sharp Honeycomb Refrigerator. It is designed to keep smelling fresh while keeping the food inside even fresher. Its **Honeycomb Double Deodorizer** takes out odors two ways. One, a deodorizer in the ref compartment keeps strong odors away from other food items. Two, a deodorizer in the freezer eliminates fishy smells. No need to worry about your ice smelling like fish nor your cake smelling like onions. Your food retains its natural aroma and flavor. If you want the real taste and smell of freshness, you know what to get.

Visit us at www.sharp.com.ph. For service, call 1-800-1-888-4952. 24-Hours, toll - free.

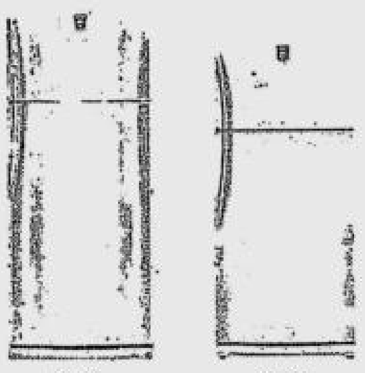
W-Honeycomb Deodorizer

The Double Deodorizer System:

A deodorizer in the ref compartment keeps strong odors away from other food items.

A deodorizer in the freezer eliminates fishy smells.

MODELS AVAILABLE IN GRAY AND SILVER

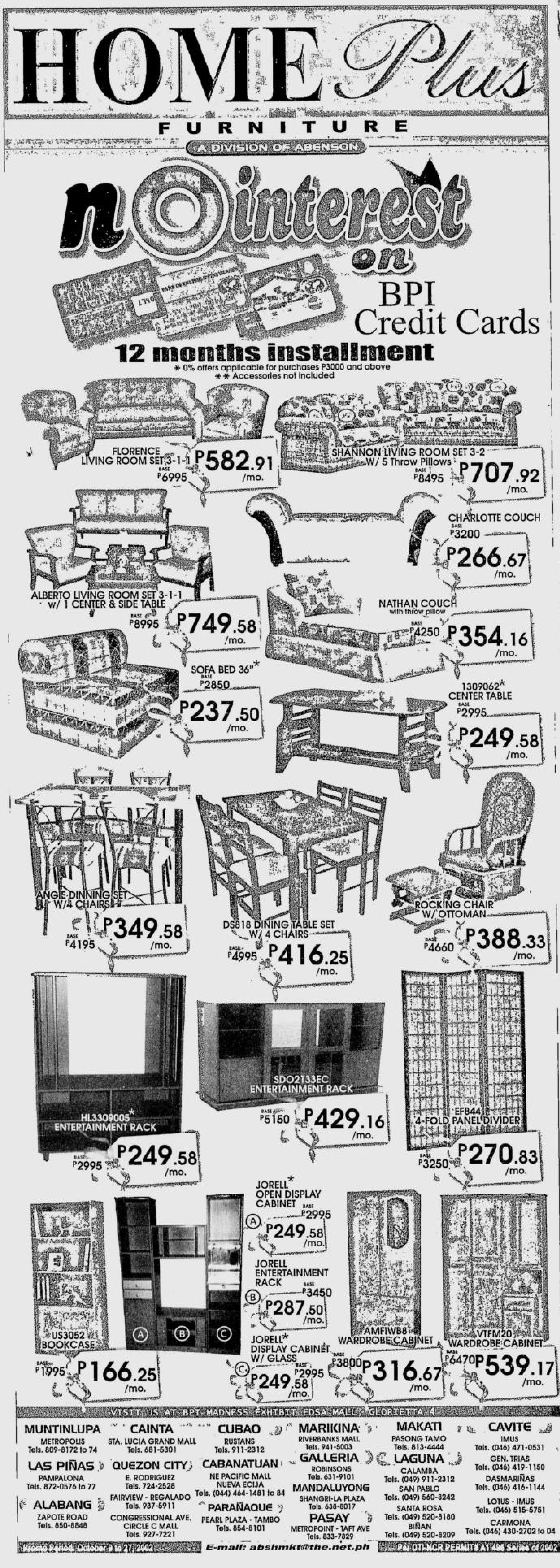


SJ-47L
407 liters
(14.4 cu. ft.)

SJ-43L
370 liters
(13.1 cu. ft.)

SHARP

Everything from appliances to furniture, computers to audio video equipment, handhelds to sports equipment are at the Installment Madness


HOME Plus
FURNITURE
A DIVISION OF ABENSON

nO interest on BPI Credit Cards
12 months installment
* 0% offers applicable for purchases P3000 and above
** Accessories not included

Item	Base	Per month
FLORENCE LIVING ROOM SET 3-1-1	P6995	P582.91 /mo.
SHANNON LIVING ROOM SET 3-2 W/ 5 Throw Pillows	P8495	P707.92 /mo.
CHARLOTTE COUCH	P3200	P266.67 /mo.
ALBERTO LIVING ROOM SET 3-1-1 w/ 1 CENTER & SIDE TABLE	P8995	P749.58 /mo.
NATHAN COUCH with throw pillow	P4250	P354.16 /mo.
SOFA BED 36"*	P2850	P237.50 /mo.
1309062* CENTER TABLE	P2995	P249.58 /mo.
ANGIE DINNING SET W/4 CHAIRS	P4195	P349.58 /mo.
DS818 DINING TABLE SET W/ 4 CHAIRS	P4995	P416.25 /mo.
ROCKING CHAIR W/ OTTOMAN	P4660	P388.33 /mo.
HL3309005* ENTERTAINMENT RACK	P2995	P249.58 /mo.
SDO2133EC ENTERTAINMENT RACK	P5150	P429.16 /mo.
EF844 4-FOLD PANEL DIVIDER	P3250	P270.83 /mo.
Ⓐ JORELL* OPEN DISPLAY CABINET	P2995	P249.58 /mo.
Ⓑ JORELL ENTERTAINMENT RACK	P3450	P287.50 /mo.
Ⓒ JORELL* DISPLAY CABINET W/ GLASS	P2995	P249.58 /mo.
US3052 BOOKCASE	P1995	P166.25 /mo.
AMFIWB8 WARDROBE CABINET	P3800	P316.67 /mo.
VTFM20 WARDROBE CABINET	P6470	P539.17 /mo.

VISIT US AT BPI MADNESS EXHIBIT EDSA MALL, GLORIETTA 4

MUNTINLUPA
METROPOLIS
Tels. 809-8172 to 74
LAS PIÑAS
PAMPALONA
Tels. 872-0576 to 77
ALABANG
ZAPOTE ROAD
Tels. 850-8848

CAINTA
STA. LUCIA GRAND MALL
Tels. 681-5301
QUEZON CITY
E. RODRIGUEZ
Tels. 724-2528
FAIRVIEW - REGALADO
Tels. 937-5911
CONGRESSIONAL AVE. CIRCLE C MALL
Tels. 927-7221

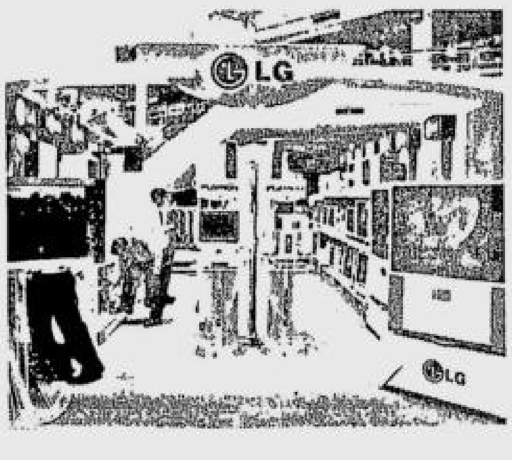
CUBAO
RUSTANS
Tels. 911-2312
CABANATUAN
NE PACIFIC MALL
NUEVA ECIJA
Tels. (044) 464-1481 to 84
PARAÑAQUE
PEARL PLAZA - TAMBO
Tels. 854-8101

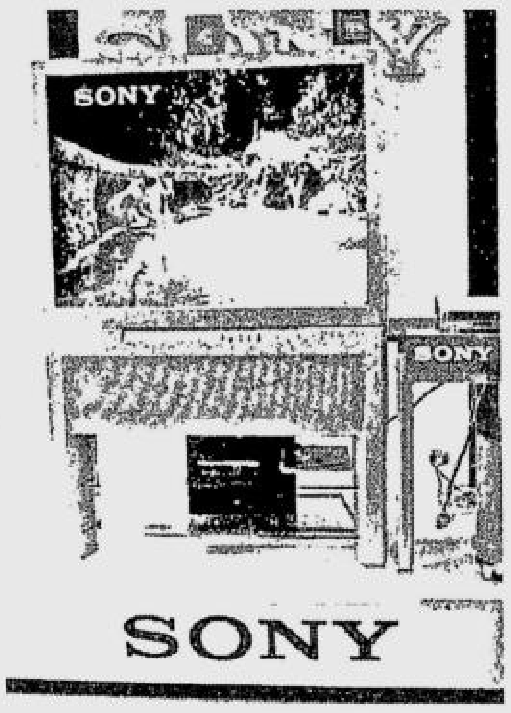
MARIKINA
RIVERBANKS MALL
Tels. 941-5003
GALLERIA
ROBINSONS
Tels. 631-9101
MANDALUYONG
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA
Tels. 638-8017
PASAY
METROPOINT - TAFT AVE
Tels. 833-7829

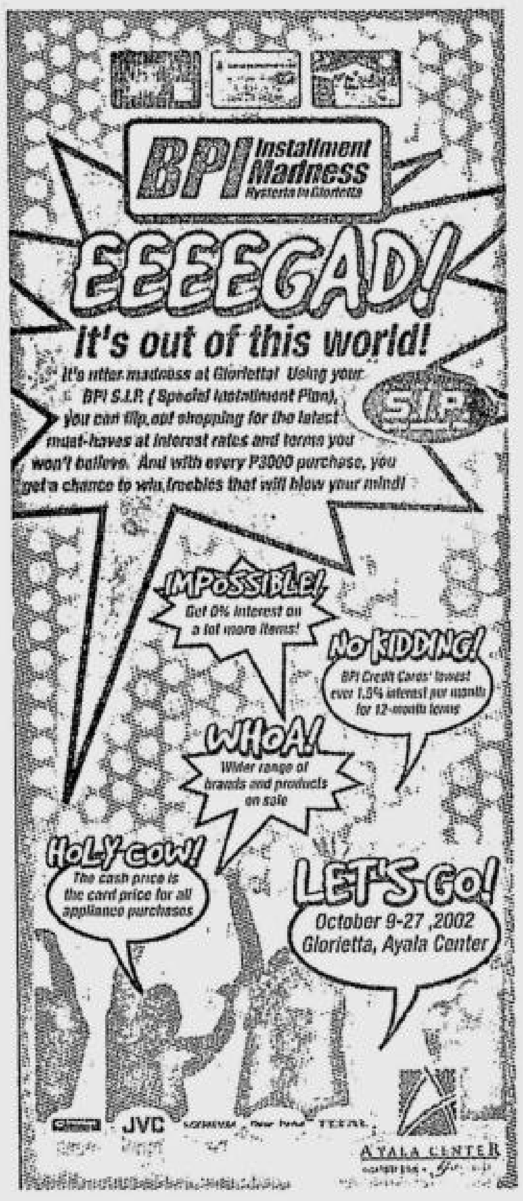
MAKATI
PASONG TAMO
Tels. 813-4444
LAGUNA
CALAMBA
Tels. (049) 911-2312
SAN PABLO
Tels. (049) 560-8242
SANTA ROSA
Tels. (049) 520-8180
BIÑAN
Tels. (049) 520-8209

CAVITE
IMUS
Tels. (046) 471-0531
GEN. TRIAS
Tels. (046) 419-1150
DASMARIÑAS
Tels. (046) 416-1144
LOTUS - IMUS
Tels. (046) 515-5751
CARMONA
Tels. (046) 430-2702 to 04

Promo Period: October 9 to 27, 2002
E-mail: abshmkt@the.net.ph
Per DTI-NCR PERMIT # A1 496 Series of 2002






BPI Installment Madness
Hysteria in Glorietta
EEEEGAD!
It's out of this world!
It's utter madness at Glorietta! Using your BPI S.I.P. (Special Installment Plan), you can flip out shopping for the latest must-haves at interest rates and terms you won't believe. And with every P3000 purchase, you get a chance to win freebies that will blow your mind!
S.I.P.
IMPOSSIBLE! Get 0% interest on a lot more items!
NO KIDDING! BPI Credit Cards' lowest ever 1.5% interest per month for 12-month terms
WHOA! Wider range of brands and products on sale
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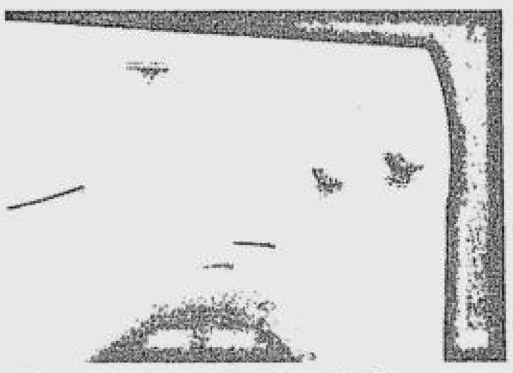
LET'S GO! October 9-27, 2002 Glorietta, Ayala Center
JVC
AYALA CENTER

Ariston washing machines endorsed


Ariston Margherita Series, the first washing machine endorsed by the Woolmark Company - perfect even for the most delicate designer items

WITH THE NEW Cachemire Gold cycle, Ariston introduces a special, incredibly delicate wash for wool items, thanks to an exclusive, patented program recognized by the Woolmark Company. Tests done by the Woolmark Company certified Ariston as the first washing machine to guarantee maximum care for all wool items and designer clothes declared washable only by hand. This is because the particular speed of the drum distributes the items, eliminating the friction between fibers. The most delicate designer items last longer and maintain their natural softness.

The Woolmark Company is the world's leading wool textile organization. It specializes in the commercialization of wool technologies and innovation, technical consulting, business information and commercial testing of wool fabrics.

Aside from the highly effective front-load washing machines, Ariston also offers an elegant line of products that will suit all kitchen design requirements such as stainless steel cookers, refrigerators, dishwashers and dryers. For people constructing new homes, they can brighten up their kitchen by choosing from a wide variety of Italian designer built-in products like cooktops, ovens and rangehoods.

For more details about Ariston Italian appliances, call 631-8282 or 887-0075, or visit the showrooms at the 4th level of Shangri-La Plaza or at Ansons Arcade Makati.

90 years of bringing the best to every home...everywhere

WHAT'S IT LIKE to be a nonagenarian? Do the years wear you down or is life as vibrant and exciting as your formative days? Apparently, life does get better as time goes on. Just ask Whirlpool Corp., which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2001.

Whirlpool had its humble beginnings in 1911 as the Uptown Machine Co. For the next 90 years, despite the upheavals of history and the economy, that small business has grown and thrived.

Today, Whirlpool is the world's leading manufacturer and marketer of major home appliances. The company manufactures in 13 countries and markets in more than 170 nations under major brand names such as Whirlpool, KitchenAid, Roper, Estate, Bauknecht, Ignis, Laden, Inglis, Brastemp and Consul. Whirlpool is also a leading supplier to Sears, Roebuck and Co. of several major home appliances marketed under the Kenmore brand name. Its products are so successful that one product is sold every two seconds in the world.

Keen on customer needs

One secret to Whirlpool's success is its keen understanding of the consumer's needs, which it has been developing for decades. Whirlpool's constant pursuit of customer insight has led to innovative products and services.

An eye for the environment

In addition to customer service, developing energy-efficient appliances has been an ongoing global commitment for Whirlpool since the 1970s. All over the world, Whirlpool continues to introduce products and features that earn awards and recognition, such as Brazil's Procel energy-efficiency seal and Australia's prestigious Galaxy Energy Awards for leadership in energy-efficient appliances.

The coolest features

Whirlpool has been exporting home appliances to Asia for over 30 years. In 1992, as part of an aggressive move to increase its presence throughout the region, Whirlpool appointed Excellence Appliance Technologies, Inc. as the exclusive authorized distributor of the Whirlpool brand of products for the entire Philippines. Its showroom at 22 D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City, displays Whirlpool's outstanding product line-up. Now the prestige, efficiency, and durability of the Whirlpool brand are available for your home. Consider some of the unique features that have made Whirlpool the market leader in home appliances worldwide:

Airconditioners

Whirlpool's Whispure with 3M Filtrete Airconditioners are built to last from inside out. Its energy-efficient compressors, bacteria-resistant air filters, and aesthetically-designed front grills are cool features that are made to make a difference in your life.

Microwave ovens and ranges

Whirlpool microwave ovens are made to give you time for the little things that mean so much. With Whirlpool's Crisp or Grill Function, Stage Cooking and One Touch Cooking Function you can fry, grill, defrost, reheat, and cook things you never thought possible in a microwave oven.

Whirlpool's Electric Ranges are designed to fit your busy lifestyle and make you spend less time in the kitchen. It is safe, easy to use and clean, and large enough to cook a week's meal at a time. It is also flexible and built to give you the same results time after time.

Washers and dryers

Whirlpool's Double-Duty Surgilator makes short work of even the heaviest washloads. It saves you water and energy, leaving you time for more important things, like straightening the tangles and removing the creases in your life.

The Whirlpool Fully Automatic Dryer is a lifesaver for large and active families. Its Accu-Dry monitors the dryness of the clothes and automatically shuts the dryer off, helping you save on your energy bills, and making your home run smoothly and efficiently.

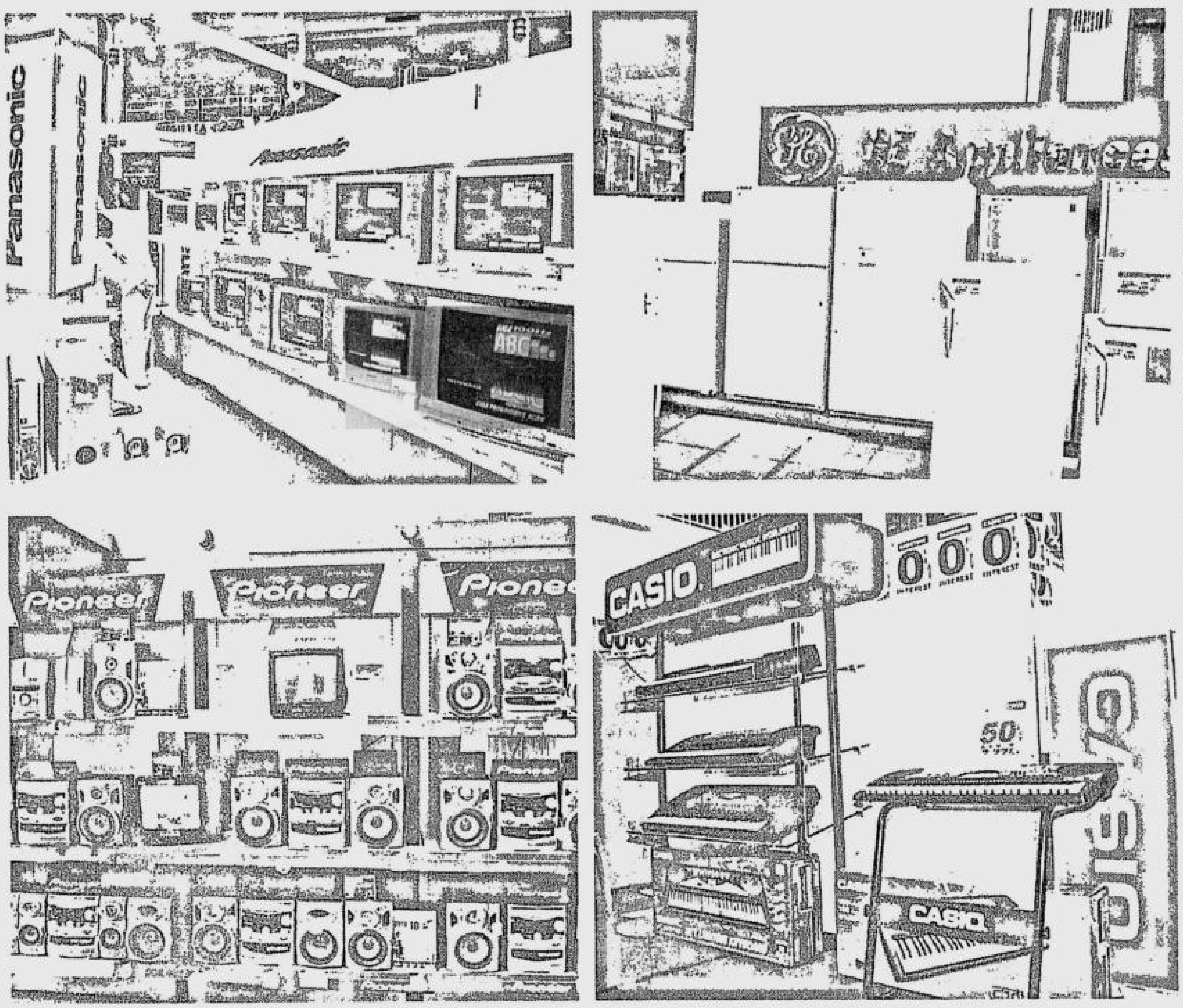
Refrigerators and freezers

Whatever your needs, Whirlpool has the right refrigerator and freezer for you, with convenient and cost-saving features that cater to your discriminating taste. The Accu-Chill System keeps the temperature consistent throughout the ref. The Automatic Exterior Moisture Control prevents "sweating" and moisture. And the Built-in Bio Deodorizer makes unpleasant odors a thing of the past.

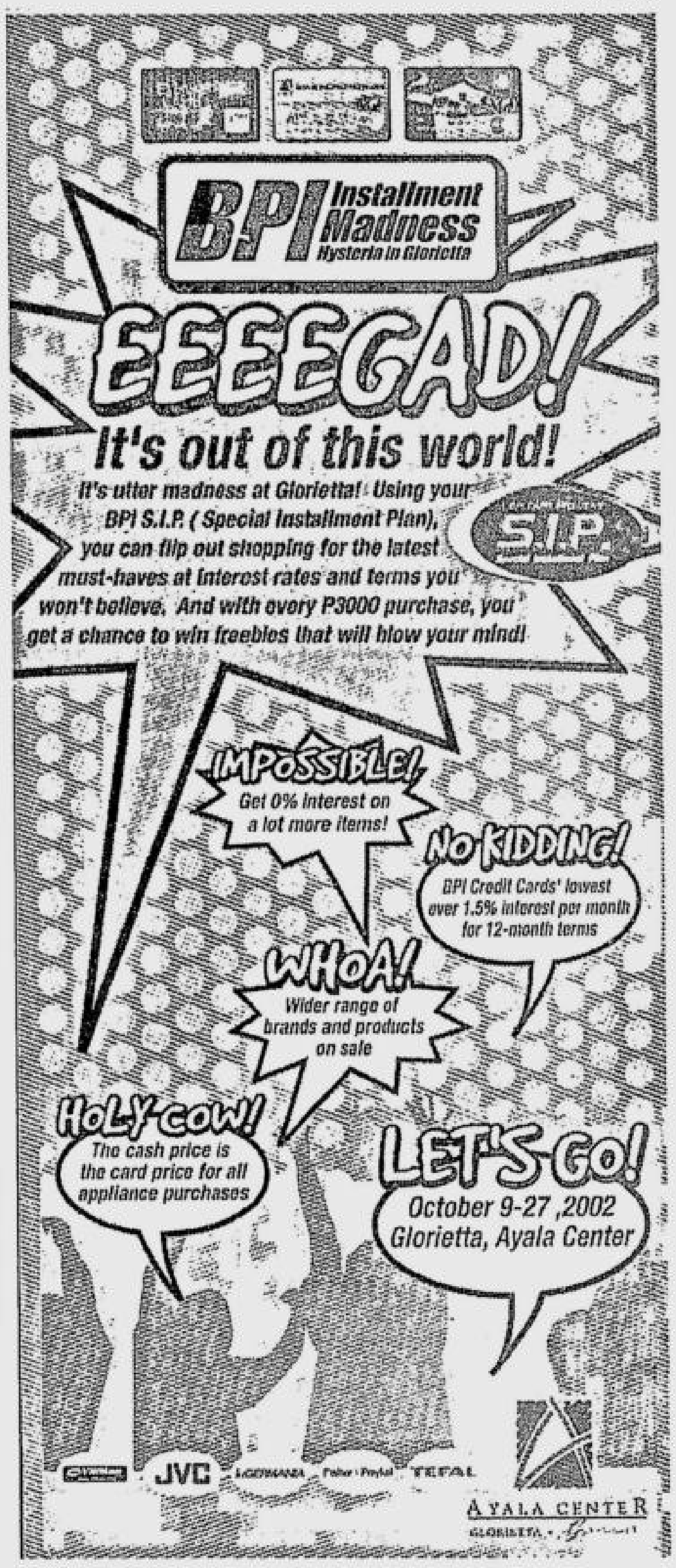
The No Frost Upright Freezer is the first of its kind in the market today. And the sizable Chest Freezers, designed for durability and function, will meet all your frozen food requirements.

Quite simply, Whirlpool creates the world's best home appliances that make life a little easier and more enjoyable for all people. With such a long history and generations of satisfied customers, one can only expect Whirlpool to last another 90 years.

For more information on Whirlpool and its products, visit www.whirlpool.com.ph.


Panasonic
Pioneer
GE Appliances
CASIO

Cardholders can avail themselves of the lowest-ever interest rate at any of these Madness dealers: Abenson, Ambassador, Ansons, Automatic Centre, SM Appliance, Sogo, Waltermart, Western Marketing and J&R Appliance. Qualified cardholders can even avail of a special promotional credit limit


BPI Installment Madness
Hysteria in Glorietta
EEEEGAD!
It's out of this world!
S.I.P.
IMPOSSIBLE!
NO KIDDING!
WHOA!
HOLY COW!
LET'S GO!
JVC
TEFAL
AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA
It's utter madness at Glorietta! Using your BPI S.I.P. (Special Installment Plan), you can flip out shopping for the latest must-haves at interest rates and terms you won't believe. And with every P3000 purchase, you get a chance to win freebies that will blow your mind!

Get 0% interest on a lot more items!

BPI Credit Cards' lowest ever 1.5% interest per month for 12-month terms

Wider range of brands and products on sale

The cash price is the card price for all appliance purchases

October 9-27 ,2002
Glorietta, Ayala Center

Panasonic
DiGitAl WORLd
Different styles. One sure thing.
I know what I like...
I like my Panasonic!
"I spare nothing for cinematic perfection."
Joseph

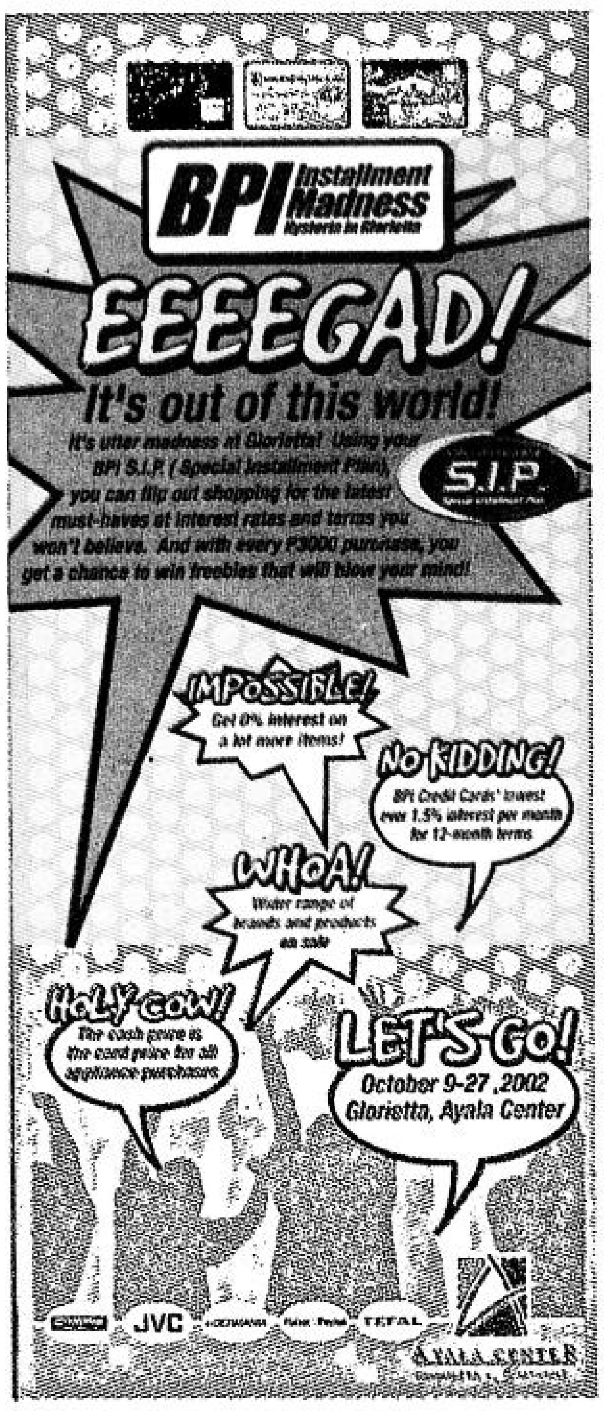
"My music is also my home decor."
Mikaela
Fashionista

"Concert or party all night with me. At home."
Verns
Party Animal

"My style is my power."
Karen
Non-Conformist

"The explosions shake my room. The percussion thumps my chest."
Kobe
Sporty

Power my lifestyle.
Let me experience
the brilliant explosion
of technology.
The stunning sound power.
The extreme clarity of image.
Everything the new
digital world can give.
For my music.
For my movies.
For the style, the cool,
the groove
that can only be me.



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AYALA CENTER

BPI Card's Hysteria In Glorietta

BPI's 29th Installment Madness takes insanity to the next level with its latest event aptly called "Hysteria In Glorietta". BPI Card is offering the latest craze in appliances, furniture and computers from Oct. 9 to 27 at the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City.

"Hysteria In Glorietta" is more than just the irresistible must-haves. It is also about the most unbelievable deals and perks this side of town. With the Madness, BPI credit cardholders can go loco everytime they use their BPI Credit Card's built-in SIP (Special Installment Plan). Now there is a wider range of items available on zero-percent interest.

BPI cardholders even get to enjoy incredible savings. That's because BPI Credit Cards give the lowest ever 1.5 percent interest per month for 12-month terms. What's more, there are no surcharges. The cash price equals the card price for all appliance purchases.

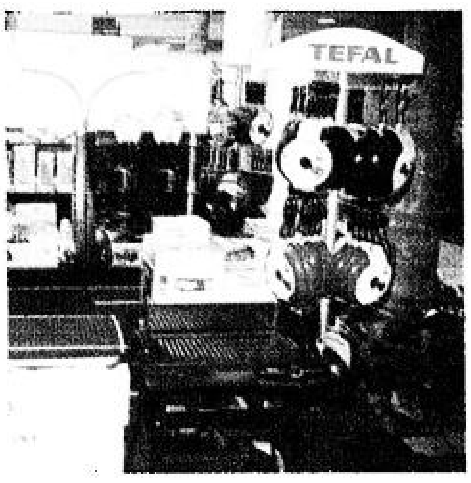
Cardholders can avail themselves of the lowest-ever interest rate at any of these Madness dealers: Abenson, Ambassador, Ansons, Automatic Centre, SM Appliance, Sogo, Waltermart, Western Marketing and J&R Appliance. Qualified cardholders can even avail of a special promotional credit limit.

The participating appliance brands are Aiwa, Akira, American Home, Ariston, Concepcion-Carrier, Electrolux, Fedders, General Electric, Haier, JVC, Kolin, Konka, La Germania, LG Collins, Midea, National/Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool, and White Westinghouse.

For furniture, Ambiance One, Amity, Blims and Home Plus.

Computers are from Compex, Electroworld, Silicon Valley, The Computer Authority and Villman.

Other participating exhibitors are Canon, Casio, Globe Handyphone, Kodak, Magnavision, Rustan Marketing, Sports House, Tefal, and Warner Home Video.



AMERICAN HOME

KOLIN
KOLIN
KOLIN
0%

Pre-Christmas shopping at BPI Card's Madness

BEATING the Christmas shopping rush is always an advantage. When you're stressed out and tired from the Christmas haste, you are inclined to buy almost anything, even if it's pricey, just to get back home and rest.

So if you're thinking of getting that DVD system in time for the holidays, or your better-half her long-dreamed of double-door refrigerator, or your kids their very own computer, now is the perfect time to finally fulfill these wishes.

BPI credit cardholders can hie off to the Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati City from Oct. 9 to 27 to do their pre-Christmas shopping at BPI Card's 29th Installment Madness dubbed "Hysteria In Glorietta".

Everything from appliances to furniture, from computers to audio video equipment, from handhelds to sports equipment are at the Installment Madness.

The good news is, a wide range of these items are available on zero percent interest. BPI credit cardholders even get to enjoy incredible savings with the low, low monthly rate of 1.5 percent over 12 months.

With BPI credit cards, the cash price is equal to the card price. There are no surcharges or hidden fees. BPI credit cardholders enjoy the lower cash price when they use their BPI credit cards. The BPI credit cards are the only ones that carry the SIP (Special Installment Plan), a second credit line used for installment purchases and available for a wider range of products. Because it is now automated, it becomes more convenient to use as there is less waiting time.

For a minimum of P3,000 (single receipt), you get a chance to win any of over 200 instant prizes. Even more convenient, qualified cardholders will get a special promotional credit limit.

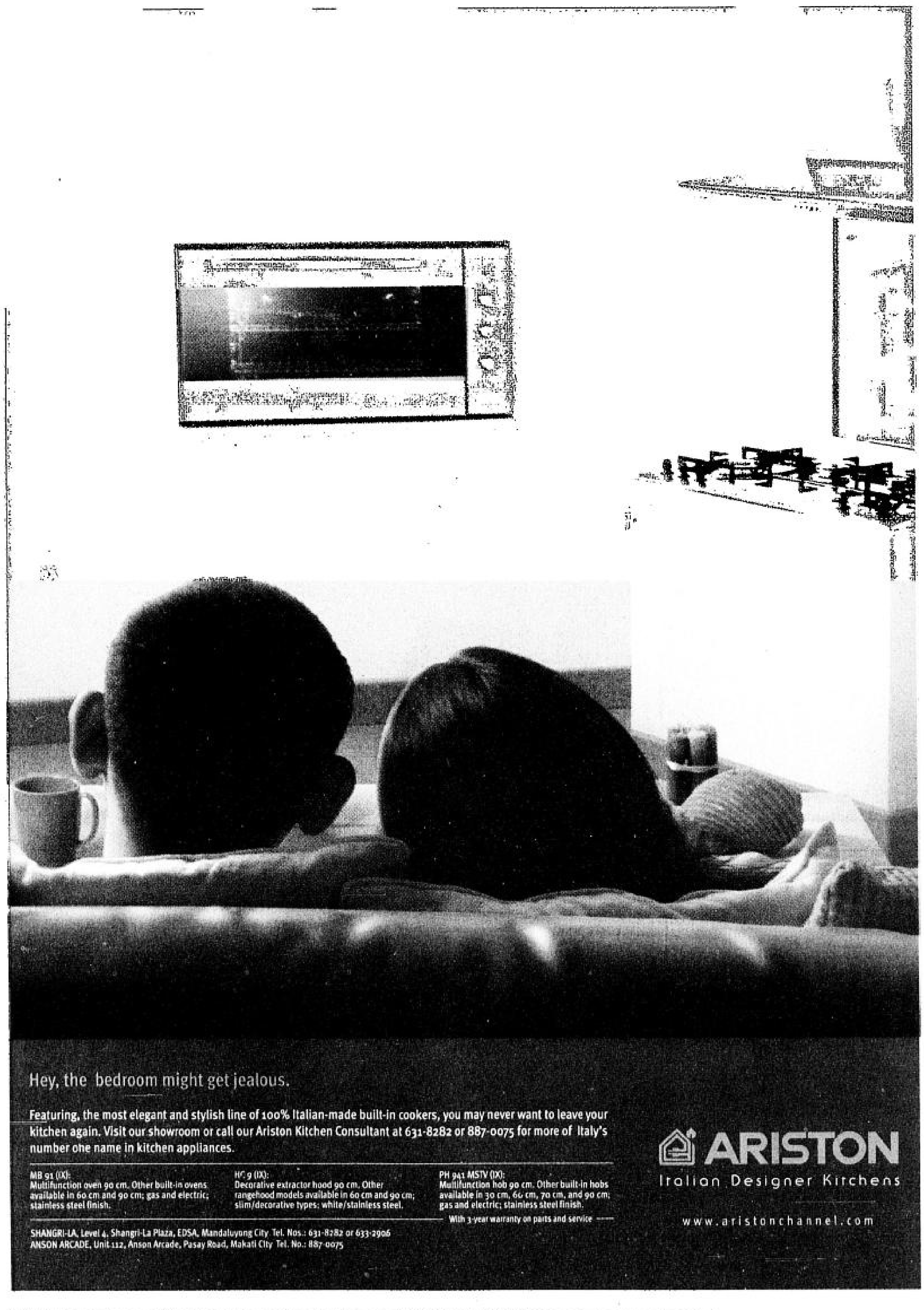
With these features, shopping at "Hysteria In Glorietta" is going to be a blast. For appliances, the participating brands are Aiwa, Akira, American Home, Ariston, Concepcion-Carrier, Electrolux, Fedders, General Electric, Haier, JVC, Kolin, Konka, La Germania, LG Collins, Midea, National/Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Toshiba, Whirlpool, and White Westinghouse.

The participating furniture exhibitors are Ambiance One, Amity, Blims, and Home Plus. Computers are courtesy of Compex, Electroworld, Silicon Valley, The Computer Authority, and Villman.

Products from Canon, Casio, Globe Handyphone, Kodak, Magnavision, Rustan Marketing, Sports House, Tefal, and Warner Home Video are also available at the Madness.

The Installment Madness promo is also available at all branches of the participating dealers: Abenson, Ambassador, Anson's, Automatic Centre, SM Appliance, Sogo, Waltermart, Western Marketing, and J&R Appliance.

So beat the rush. Keep only the sensible credit card—the BPI Credit Card—and pad off to the "Hysteria In Glorietta" Installment Madness. This is one event you should not miss!


Hey, the bedroom might get jealous.

Featuring, the most elegant and stylish line of 100% Italian-made built-in cookers, you may never want to leave your kitchen again. Visit our showroom or call our Ariston Kitchen Consultant at 631-8282 or 887-0075 for more of Italy's number one name in kitchen appliances.

MB 91 (IX):
Multifunction oven 90 cm. Other built-in ovens available in 60 cm and 90 cm; gas and electric; stainless steel finish.

HC 9 (IX):
Decorative extractor hood 90 cm. Other rangehood models available in 60 cm and 90 cm; slim/decorative types: white/stainless steel.

PH 941 MSTV (IX):
Multifunction hob 90 cm. Other built-in hobs available in 30 cm, 60 cm, 70 cm, and 90 cm; gas and electric; stainless steel finish.

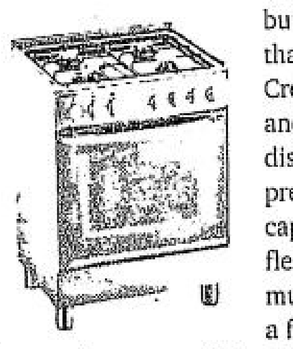
With 3-year warranty on parts and service

SHANGRI-LA, Level 4, Shangri-La Plaza, EDSA, Mandaluyong City Tel. Nos.: 631-8282 or 633-2906
ANSON ARCADE, Unit 112, Anson Arcade, Pasay Road, Makati City Tel. No.: 887-0075

ARISTON
Italian Designer Kitchens
www.aristonchannel.com

Linea Diamante by La Germania: presentation is everything

LINEA Diamante successfully combines the solidity of structural strength, reliability and practicality of the components and the beauty that is timeless – characteristics you won't find elsewhere. Linea Diamante is made from sturdy stainless steel, which means it is resistant to any damage. And apart from this, what really raises Linea Diamante above its contemporaries is the assembly of its components. The ergonomically inclined control panel allows a perfect view of the cooking functions while the one-touch ignition knobs provides more practicality of use with its wide grasp surface. Added to that are more sensible features: tempered glass top cover; easy-to-clean single piece worktop; sealed type burners, flame failure safety device; cast iron pan supports; new tridimensional front control panel; dishwasher compartment adjustable feet.



Linea Diamante's beauty not only lies in the appearance but also in the fruits that it yields. Creating delectable and perfectly done dishes with the precision cooking capability and flexibility of the multifunction oven, a feature present in most of the Linea Diamante models.

For kitchen "gourmets" who want the perfect cooking companion, get the best inspiration amongst the collection of Linea Diamante, it's absolutely made right for you.

CASIO
Electronic Musical Instruments

For every purchase of Casio Keyboard, get a game card and get a chance to enjoy one of these exciting privileges:

Pasasalamat SALE 2002

SCRATCH A REWARD

Skating Galore
Play Treat
SM BOWLING CENTER Bowling Treat
Work Out
Cyber Adventure

SEE POSTERS FOR MORE DETAILS Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3344,Series of 2002